

TRUMPET: a 19-Page Illustrated Children's Story

By Mary Jane Johnson

1. Fat little fish swimming in Lake Harriet are very unhappy. Almost everything frightens them. They fear they will never grow up to be very big fish living in such a dangerous place.

(Picture)

2. Around Lake Harriet boys and girls hold long fishing poles, each child hoping to catch a little fat fish.

(Picture)

3. The children hold long bamboo fishing poles.

Each bamboo pole has extending from the end of the pole's tip a long, long thread-thin fishing line that sinks into Lake Harriet.

And under the lake's water, at the end of each fishing line are wiggling worms impaled on ugly hooks.

(Picture)

4. The children feel fishing is fun.

But fish are afraid of children holding fishing poles and swim away from them as fast as they can.

But sometimes a hungry fish is not very smart and bites a worm wiggling upon a fishing hook.

And then that unfortunate fish gets caught by a child.

(Picture)

5. Canoes are pretty to a child who watches people paddle and glide a canoe upon Lake Harriet's smooth water.

(Picture)

6. But if you are a fish, a canoe is a dark shadow over your head. At first you are very still and then dart to much deeper water. A splashing paddle is a frightful sound.

(Picture)

7. Even worse is when a long boat tours passengers around Lake Harriet. Fish do not like the sticky oily smear left by its engine. It sometimes makes them sick.

(Picture)

8. The worst of all the things in Lake Harriet to little fish is their fear of the crowded beaches during the hot summer.

To get lost in a forest of legs is dreadful. To be discovered is terrifying.

It's a "worrying time" before reaching deep water again.

(Picture)

9. Timothy does not worry. He's a clever fish.

Timothy avoids all the things that makes all the other fish so unhappy.

Timothy's a music loving fish. Every day Timothy looks forward to hearing the evening concert at the bandstand next to the Lake Harriet's shoreline.

The music gurgles clear down to the tip of Timothy's silver tail.

(Picture)

10. The brass instruments are Timothy's favorites.

He's excited to be ever so close to the dock in the cool dark weeds and to listen to every note the trumpets play.

(Picture)

11. People eat popcorn and toss some popcorn toward the ducks swimming in the water.

Timothy swims to the surface and nibbles on the popcorn whenever the band stops playing.

He likes the popcorn better than anything he has ever tasted.

(Picture)

12. Late on one afternoon, Timothy hears the band rehearsing for the evening concert.

As drowsy as a little fish are during the afternoon, Timothy senses something sounds very wrong in the band's trumpet section.

(Picture)

13. Jumping high out of the water to hear a little better, Timothy hears a trumpet in the brass section screeching a horrible honking BLEEP BLEEP BLEEP, before Timothy splashes back under the water.

(Picture)

14. Timothy wonders, "What could be the matter?"

One more jump might help Timothy see who was causing the trouble.

Timothy leaps above the water again and sees a red-faced man tossing his trumpet into the water. KER-SPLASH!

(Picture)

15. Surprised and frightened, Timothy swishes away, but soon Timothy decides to swish back to the sunken trumpet, where he wraps a fin around the trumpet and then swims away with it.

(Picture)

16. "What a beautiful golden treasure," he thinks.

"Now I won't be just another ordinary little fish. I can be very important and maybe the other fish will listen to me now."

(Picture)

17. Soon Timothy is loved by all the little fish and they are no longer afraid.

They awaken to his golden trumpet tones of "Ta-Ta-Ta,"

Timothy's trumpet warns them about children fishing near them.

(Picture)

18. Best of all, Timothy now plays along with the band concerts.

And everyone marvels at how well the brass section again plays during that summer.

(Picture)

19. All the fish give Timothy a special nickname.

Timothy is now called Trumpet.

And the next time you are walking or sitting beside Lake Harriet, if you are very quiet and listen very carefully, maybe you too can hear Trumpet playing.

(Picture)