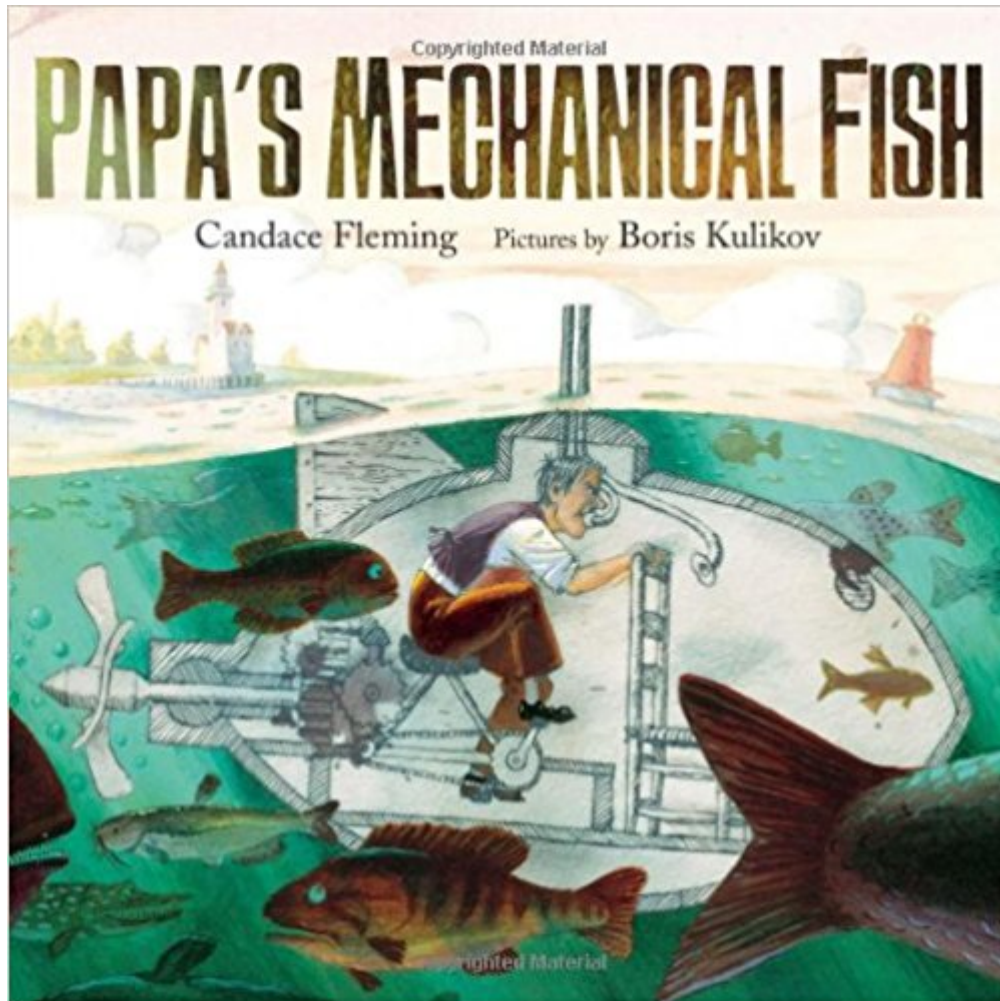




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# Papa's Mechanical Fish



## Synopsis

Clink! Clankety-bang! Thump-whirr! That's the sound of Papa at work. Although he is an inventor, he has never made anything that works perfectly, and that's because he hasn't yet found a truly fantastic idea. But when he takes his family fishing on Lake Michigan, his daughter Virena asks, "Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a fish?" And Papa is off to his workshop. With a lot of persistence and a little bit of help, Papa—who is based on the real-life inventor Lodner Phillips—creates a submarine that can take his family for a trip to the bottom of Lake Michigan.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 480L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR); 1 edition (June 4, 2013)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #64,537 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Inventions & Inventors](#) #78 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology](#) #1850 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2-4-This picture book is a fictional account based on events in the life of eccentric inventor Lodner Phillips as told from the perspective of his daughter, Virena. Papa theorizes and tinkers but never succeeds. Finally, while the family is dropping lines from a pier into Lake Michigan, his daughter asks, "have you ever wondered what it's like to be a fish?" Immediately the man dashes back to his workshop and soon produces one of the world's earliest submarines, the Whitefish. Children will delight in the way Virena is the catalyst for her father's successive improvements to his primitive vessel as she continues to ask questions: about how fish move through water, stay dry,

and know where they are going. Kulikov's luminous, playful, detailed illustrations on full-bleed spreads incorporate a variety of perspectives, including close-up views of fish and of Papa underwater and cutaway diagrams of his creations. An afterword is included. The exuberant and inquisitive tone of this book is sure to entertain curious children.-Anne Barreca, New York Public Library  
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There's a rich history of batty inventor/tinkerer dads in children's books, and the girl narrator's father in this book could hang with the best of them. That he's based on a real mid-nineteenth-century person makes it all the better. Whether Papa's spectacular failures have been great ideas (steam-powered roller skates) or not-so-great (edible socks), "not once has Papa invented anything that works perfectly. But inspiration flashes when the family is out fishing in the lake • a mechanical fish. Iteration after iteration of his rudimentary submarine ends in lighthearted disaster, each time the object growing more complex and preposterous until he's finally come up with a vessel just crazy enough to work. Fleming festoons her glib narrative with read-aloud treats of "Clacketa-claketa-clacketa! and "Clink! Clankety-bang! Thump-whirr! Meanwhile, Kulikov dishes out some tall-tale-worthy artwork and cut-out designs somewhere between Leonardo da Vinci and Rube Goldberg. A closing note talks about Fleming's inspiration, the inventor Lodner Phillips, who really did take his family for an underwater spin in Lake Michigan in 1851. Grades K-2. --Ian Chipman

A very cute story about the fun of having a good imagination and inventing. Got this for my nephew who loves these kinds of stories. The artwork and story are top notch with kids books today. I've spent countless hours reading very boring and uninteresting books that are poorly illustrated. Its nice to see a book like this every once in a while!

This was a good read aloud for my STEM class.

Love this book. My husband (who's account I use) is an engineer, and almost everyone in my family likes to tinker in build, so I thought this would be a great book to supplement all the Mickey Mouse and princess books. My two and a half year old daughter loves it. Especially when I read the sounds Papa makes when he is building. We also bought Iggy Peck Architect, and Rosie Revere

Engineer. We are happy with all three.

There's not that many kids books about submarines, but this is a great one that my kids love . The illustrations are engaging, each time we read it they find new things to point out. The story teaches them a bit about trial and error and how to deal with set backs. Even though we've read it approximately 1,000 times, we all still enjoy it very much

Cute book with great illustrations, lovely story and optimistic and loving image of parents's relationship. Crazy papa inventor and his patient wife raise 4 kids, being crazy, joyful and eccentric. Nice reading for whole family!

Great story with fun art. My 5 year old (and his K-garten class) love it!

The book was in very good shape for being a library book. I am pleased with this purchase!

Great condition.

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