

TWICE AS SPECTACULAR

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Dramatists Guild
New Play Exchange

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CHARACTERS

MOLLY. . . a plucky student.

ANDY. . . a beleaguered teacher.

EDUARDO. . . an ever-dancing student.

MAX. . . an ever-origami-making student.

And CLASSMATES with one or just a few lines each.

SETTING

Molly's elementary school classroom.

TIME

Is this math, or?

ANDY

Okay, class! – no, please stop dancing. Dance was last week. Now it's time to hear your homework. And today – oh, where's that lesson plan?

MAX

It is now an origami frog!

ANDY

Now, Max, you can't keep – gimme that. This – frog – says write a very well-spelled Paragraph On Who Is In Your Family. So, let's all check this one off now. Molly – go.

MOLLY

Okay! Our house is purple – with a bright blue smiley on the door. And a hot magenta leopard sprawled across the porch, 'cause that's my favorite.

ANDY

Hang on, wait – it's supposed to be just factual, your family. It says so on – oh, where'd that frog go?

MOLLY

And our living room is in a forest – and the trees are full of gold and purple birds, and silver berries. And the bathroom's underwater, and there's lots of hot magenta fish, 'cause that's my favorite.

EDUARDO

¡Geniál! Puedo interpretar los pescaditos. *(Cool! I can dance the fish.)*

ANDY

It is not your turn, Eduardo. But that is a good fish dance.

MOLLY

Our kitchen is a red and gold and pink and purple sunset – with a hot magenta beach umbrella, because that's my favorite.

ANDY

Well, you know your colors, okay. But this is supposed to be a – where's that doggone lesson plan?

MAX

It is now an origami elephant!

EDUARDO

¡Ooh, puedo interpretarlo! *(Ooh, I can dance it!)*

ANDY

Okay, fine, it's – which leg is it? Lesson 83. Write about who's in your family. So, you know, your brothers, sisters –

EDUARDO

¿Y mi perro? *(And my dog?)*

ANDY

You could maybe squeeze a dog in, sure. But this elephant, I'm sad to say, just wants the facts.

MOLLY

Well, it's a fact that there's a gold and silver shiny path, along our hall, and it's a dragon!

MAX

Cool!

EDUARDO

¡Genial! *(Cool!)*

MOLLY

Yes. And I put my bare feet on his shiny back, and the dragon undulates into my room.

MAX

What's 'undulate?'

EDUARDO

¡Ooh, ondulando – puedo ondular como un dragón!
(Ooh, undulating – I can undulate like a dragon!)

MAX

Okay, got it, thank you.

MOLLY

And my room's in outer space! With purple stars, and orange asteroids, and shiny silver comets that glow when the lights are out. And an enormous gold and purple and magenta Magellanic Cloud, 'cause that's my favorite.

MAX

My favorite's Star Cluster NGC 3-46.

EDUARDO

¡Que chévere! Y yo también. *(How cool! Mine, too.)*

MOLLY

And every night I fly into my room! 'Cause flying is my favorite. And my two Dads tuck me in.

Next!

ANDY

I'm not done.

MOLLY

ANDY

And you do get three bonus points for creativity. But you see, this elephant –

MAX

Now it's an origami penguin!

ANDY

Okay, fine, this penguin – says that we can't talk about two dads, two moms, two –

EDUARDO

¡Mis dos tías! *(My two aunties!)*

ANDY

Well, your aunties, okay, sure.

MOLLY

And every morning I get up and I put on my favorite red pants and my favorite purple shirt and my hot magenta sneakers, because they're my favorite. See?

MAX

I like the zig zags.

MOLLY

My Mom painted those.

EDUARDO

¡Y los cometas – zoom! *(And the comets – zoom!)*

ANDY

That's lovely, Molly. But this isn't supposed to be a story.

MOLLY

It's six pages.

ANDY

But you write big.

EDUARDO

Oh, bien grande. Pero yo escribo mucho mas grande.
(Oh, very big. But I write much bigger.)

ANDY

You do.

MOLLY

And I jump over the dragon and I climb a rocky mountaintop that takes me to the kitchen! And my two Dads make me smiley eggs for breakfast.

ANDY

Next!

MAX

I'd like to hear about the smiley breakfast.

MOLLY

Smiley eggs is toast with a sunny-side up egg – so it looks like an eye? And the smile is made of cheese. But my two Dads prefer parsley, so they put a green smile on their –

ANDY

Okay, you're done –

MOLLY

I'm not finished. And we eat our smiley eggs and then we do the dishes.

ANDY

O-kay.

MOLLY

And we put our goggles on, because we're gonna launch a rocket.

ANDY

Molly! Oh, for – so this penguin –

MAX

No, it's an absolutely different origami elephant!

ANDY

Oh, elephant, okay! So this elephant, now has to ask, are you a terrorist?

MOLLY

What?

ANDY

Are your parents?

MOLLY

No.

ANDY

Good. 'Cause now I have to fill that form out – where'd it go?

MAX
Ta dah! – an origami rocket!

ANDY
Oh, Max! Oh, fine, just go – your turn.

MOLLY
I'm not finished.

MAX
I will give my turn to Molly, 'cause I didn't write one.

ANDY
Max! You don't want to fail the second grade.

MAX
I don't. But I can't write that.

EDUARDO
Do a dance, then! ¡Venga, baila! *(Come on, dance!)*

MAX
I would like to hear about the rocket.

EDUARDO
Yo también. *(Me, too.)*

ANDY
No, science is next Thursday. So no more momentum now, Eduardo. Molly, I'll give you a B for effort. And you did spell "rocket" right.

MOLLY
And our rocket's red and gold and green and purple, with a lot of silver zig zags – because my Mom painted it, so that it's special. And I flew! – across the beach, and my two Dads –

ANDY
Just stop it, please! You know that we can't talk about two dads in class.

EDUARDO
¿Por qué? *(Why?)*

ANDY
It's complicated.

MOLLY
And I flew! And my two Dads –

ANDY
Sssh! Stop it, stop it — you can't read that kind of story here.

MOLLY
It's true.

ANDY
That doesn't matter.

MOLLY
How does that not matter?

ANDY
Well. . . it can't be true if there's a rocket.

MOLLY
Well, there was a rocket. At the beach. And I flew, with my two Dads. 'Cause that's my favorite.

ANDY
Stop it, please. I'm gonna get in trouble.

MAX
Are we gonna get in trouble?

ANDY
No. Just me. And I already got in trouble five times this semester — and I need this job! So. Your turn, Eduardo!

EDUARDO
(dancing it)
¡Bueno! Esta es mi madre, mi abuela —
(Good! This is my mom, my grandmother —)

ANDY
Wait, what are you doing?

EDUARDO
Interpreto a mi familia. Y mis dos hermanas, y mi hermanito, y tres tías, cinco tíos — y mi perro, Chavo. Y mis once primos — uno, dos, tres — él es tan alto —
(Dancing my family. And my two sisters, and my little brother, and three aunties, five uncles — and my dog, Chavo. And my 11 cousins — 1, 2, 3 — he's so tall —)

ANDY
Wow, your cousin is so tall. But the assignment is — oh, where's that lesson plan?

MAX
It's an origami frog again!

ANDY

Oh, for – so this frog says write about your family.

EDUARDO

I can dance it better. O puedo cantar. (*Or I can sing.*)

MAX

Oh, great, let's sing.

EDUARDO

Sí, I can sing a song with all my cousins' names. I'll teach you.

ANDY

No, no, no, this isn't – what class is this? Well, it's math now, so we need to wind this up.

MOLLY

Okay, math! My two Dads lit the rocket.

ANDY

(an extravagant moan)

MOLLY

And it launched spectacularly, up into the sky. And blew up in red and gold and green and purple, orange, blue and hot magenta clouds, 'cause that's my favorite. And all my Mom's friends were there. And we all got covered in the colors. Because my Mom told me that it's like the Hindu festival, of Colors.

ANDY

Frog says we can't talk about geography.

MAX

Oh, Holi ["HOE-lee"] – sure. I've got a pal from Bangalore. And I got all gold and green and purple, at their house, in March.

ANDY

Now Max, you know that holidays are in December. Let's all do the months again.

MOLLY

My Mom went to India in college, to see her best friend. She told me. And she told us how to mix the colors with her ashes, so that when we launch the rocket, it'll turn her red and gold and green and purple, orange, blue and hot magenta, because that's my favorite. And we all cheered. And my two Dads held my hands and swung me – so that I could fly, as we walked home.

EDUARDO

Porque ese es tu favorito. (*Because that's your favorite.*)

MOLLY

Sí.

ANDY

You do not have two dads, Molly! I just looked you up, and you have got one dad, one mom, just like this frog, this penguin, and this elephant –

EDUARDO

Y el otro elefante. (*And another elephant.*)

MAX

And another whole new elephant!

ANDY

Okay, these three elephants! – (*huge sigh*) all say you're supposed to.

MOLLY

My Mom died. So I just have my Dad now. But I wish that I had two, because he can't swing me now so I can fly. Because that takes two people.

ANDY

(*rings a bell*)

Recess!

MAX

It's not time for recess.

ANDY

I need recess! And I need to call my husband, 'cause I need a hug. And I need to call my sister. 'Cause our step-mom is in hospice. But I'm scared to go and see her. 'Cause that's hard, right? It's so hard. I love her, she's amazing. But it's scary. But she needs me. And she wants me to sing "My Blue Heaven" – because that's her favorite. Argh!!! You guys, just dance some math equations, just draw chapter 7 of – whatever! I'll be back.

ANDY steps away.

DAVID – KID 1

I have two dads.

MOLLY

You're so lucky.

FERNANDO – KID 2

I have two moms!

MOLLY

Wow. You're lucky.

FERNANDO — KID 3

I have got my dad on weekends and my mom on weekdays. And my brother all the time.

DAVID — KID 4

I have got my mom, my stepdad, and my dad, my stepmom, six step-cousins and a step-aunt and my grandmother, my step-grandmother and three sisters. One of them's my half-sister? But I don't understand that, 'cause she's even taller than the others.

MOLLY

I just have my Dad now. I wish there were two of him. Because he can't make me fly now, by himself. And there wouldn't be an empty place now, at the table.

FERNANDO — KID 5

Want to see the picture I drew, of my grandma? She's my family. And my brothers.

MOLLY

Cool! So where's your origami family, Max? Here — you want some pages from my story?

MAX

No. I can't.

EDUARDO

¡Puedes interpretarla! (*You can dance them!*)

MAX

I don't have a mom or dad — just foster people. I don't like them.

MOLLY

Oh. Yeah, my folks don't like their family, either. So we have a great big family — but my Mom and my Dad, they picked them, one by one, because they're special.

MAX

Maybe I could make some origami friends.

MOLLY

Ooh, can you make an origami me?

EDUARDO

¡Sí, haga un origami de mi! (*Yes, make an origami me!*)

MAX

Sure.

EDUARDO

¿En serio, you had a rocket, for a funeral? *(Seriously,)*

MOLLY

Yeah.

MAX

Your mom's an astronaut?

MOLLY

No. I will be – but my Mom's a painter. But her best friend works for NASA. And when my Mom's friend's mom died, my Mom's friend put her mom's ashes in a tiny rocket, so that she could scatter them in their backyard. But it just spun round and round, and everybody started laughing. Because my mom's friend is a geologist – she doesn't make the rockets. But there were a lot of engineers there, and they had a lot of good ideas for the next funeral. They emailed instructions to my Dad, so ours flew better.

MAX

It's so cool your living room's a forest, and your room's in outer space.

EDUARDO

¡Y tienes un dragón! *(And you have a dragon!)*

MOLLY

Yeah, my Mom painted all of that, all on the walls, the floors, the ceiling. Just for me.

EDUARDO

(dancing)

¡Mira – estos son mis primos, nueve, diez – ¡y once!
(Look – these are my cousins, nine, ten – and 11!)

ANDY comes back, with JAY!

ANDY

Oh, Eduardo – don't stop dancing! I talked to my hubby, see? 'Cause I really want to see my step-mom.

JAY

You can do it! I'll come with you.

ANDY

Thank you. Thank you.

JAY

'Cause we're family.

ANDY

Yes, we are. And I'm scared to go, to hospice, but he's gonna come sing with me. And my sister – and we're gonna sing for her, together, 'cause we're family. So let's dance our math homework, let's sing some astronomy!

ANDY and JAY start singing
"My Blue Heaven."

EDUARDO

Quiero ver tu hot magenta Magellanic cloud. (I want to see your)

MOLLY

It's beautiful. My Mom painted it above my bed, across the ceiling, gold and purple and magenta.

MAX

Because that's your favorite.

MOLLY

Yup.

MAX

. . . You're lucky.

ANDY AND JAY
(sing us out –)

- THE END -

"My Blue Heaven"
by Walter Donaldson and George A. Whiting

When whippoorwills call
And evening is nigh
I hurry to my blue heaven

A turn to the right
A little white light
Will lead you to my blue heaven

You'll see a smiling face
A fireplace
A cozy room
A little nest that's nestled w here the roses bloom

Just Hubby and me
And baby makes three
We're happy in my blue heaven