THE BOAT IN THE WOODS
By Jacek Zuzanski and Laura Opie

Excerpt of the play

Cast of Characters

1. ANNA – attentive, usually quiet. Likes to read, but is more of a daydreamer. Randy’s sister.

2. RANDY – Anna’s older brother/sister. Outspoken. A leader. Sometimes reverts into a less mature boisterous joker. Kind to everyone but his sister, but she couldn’t care less.

3. MEERA – One of Anna’s two best friends, along with Susi.

4. MAX (MAX/MAXINE) – Meera’s brother or sister. They are very close in age.

5. SUSI - One of Anna’s best friends, along with Meera. Sam’s sister.

6. SAM (SAM/SAMANTHA) - Suzy’s brother/sister. A real observer. Spends more time with a teddy bear named Froggy than the other kids.

7. CHRIS - Friends with everybody, but particularly likes Anna, Susi, Sam, and Meera.

8. PAT (PATTI/PATRICK) – Vies for attention and leadership with Lilian


10. GINA – A good friend of Sam’s, but wants to be popular, too. Easily swayed.
SCENE 1
The Secret

Meera, Anna, and Susi are on their way back from an early morning hike and climbing a tall tree they call Grandfather Pine.

SUSI
Are you sure it was a boat? Maybe it was just a dead tree that looked like a mast?

MEERA
No. From Grandfather Pine I could see the outline of the hull. It’s huge. Like a pirate’s ship.

SUSI
I just don’t get why there would be a pirate’s ship in the middle of the woods. Can we get to it?

MEERA
There’s a path. We can go this afternoon,

ANNA
Should we tell anyone else?

MEERA
I’d rather keep it a secret.

SUSI
I agree. What if it’s not a boat? They’d make fun of us.

MEERA
Look, I have to get going. Let’s meet here a little before one. And it’s our secret.

SUSI & ANNA
OK. (Exit.)

SCENE 2
Children
(Susi’s sibling Sam enters with a little knapsack, talking to a small teddy bear named Froggy.)

SAM
No, Froggy. I don’t want to be in Lilian’s group theme fashion show, either. What if it’s a Western theme? I don’t like cowboy boots. And you wouldn’t look good in a cowboy hat. (Gina enters.)

GINA
Hi Sam!

(Sam, startled, starts to put the bear away, but stops because it’s Gina.)
Oh...Hi, Gina.

Umm...Look who’s coming...

Ups... Froggy, you better take a nap now. *(Sam stuffs Froggy into the backpack.)*

(Pat enters in the middle of a conversation) Well... You just parade down the runway, but I’m not sure about letting Lilian dress me.

Hi Guys.

Were you talking about Lilian’s group theme fashion show thing?

What fashion show thing?

It’s part of the National Dance Competition. Lilian wants to be the Stylist, and if her group wins she gets to go to some big fashion show in New York. But she needs at least six models to enter.

I’d rather go hiking. *(Lilian enters with Max.)*

Hi everyone. I’m ordering pizza for anyone who comes to my house. Your choice of toppings if you come! But you have to promise to be one of my models a week from Saturday for my group theme fashion show.

Are you doing the fashion show, Max?

Yeah, Lilian said I could have her brother’s old I-pod. I’m getting my pizza with extra cheese!

Well, if Max gets an I-pod and extra cheese, what do I get with my Pepperoni?

Tom has lots of neat stuff in the garage he doesn’t want. Take your pick.
You didn’t give me a pick!

Like what?

A Zero skateboard, a Gamecube, an Abecrombi jacket, an I-pad mini, X-Box, K-2 Inline Skates, a Haro BMX Bike, and more.

Can I get something, too?

Sure. But you might like some of my designer clothes instead. So that’s me, Pat, Max, Meera and Gina so far. That’s five. How about you guys: Sam? Chris?

I didn’t say ‘yes.’ (Lilian stares at her. Meera meets her gaze evenly. Randy enters.)

Geeze. Look at this. Everybody in the world but my stupid sister. This is ridiculous.

What do you mean?

I’m in charge while our folks are away, and Anna skipped our morning chores. Now I can’t find her.

She took a hike with me and Susi this morning, really early. (Chris enters during Randy’s next speech.)

Well, maybe she should stay where she is because I’m likely to kill her when I find her.

Whom are you going to kill?

Anna. She didn’t show up for chores, and now I can’t find her.

I hope she’s alright.

I’ve checked just about everywhere but the playground.
I’ll go to the playground if you want.

CHRIS

LILIAN
I’m sure she’s fine. Why don’t you guys come to my house for a pizza party for the group theme fashion show I’m organizing. So far it’s me, Pat, Max, and Gina.

RANDY
So, Max, you’re in this for the pizza, right?

MAX
Yeah… And I get Tom’s old I-pod.

RANDY
No way! That’s sick.

PAT
And I might take his old skateboard...

RANDY
You mean his Zero. No way!

LILIAN
I have a garage full of Tom’s stuff that he has no use for in college. Anyone who comes over for the Pizza Planning Party gets to go through it.

RANDY
I’m in.

MEERA
What about Anna?

RANDY
Well, if Chris will check the playground…

CHRIS
Sure. I’m not a big pizza fan. See you later.

SAM
Wait, I’ll come with you.

LILIAN
Well, that’s five of us, so let’s head to my house for our first meeting and some pizza. 

(All exit but Meera, who looks after them.)
SCENE 3
Anna is missing
(Susi enters.)

SUSI
I am done.

MEERA
Anna is missing.

SUSI
What do you mean missing?

MEERA
Randy says Anna never went home to help with the chores.

SUSI
You don’t think…

MEERA
I do. But she still should have been back by now. (Chris enters with Sam.)

CHRIS
You two look like you know something.

MEERA
Can you two keep a secret?

CHRIS & SAM
Sure! Of course!

SUSI
We think we know where Anna is.

MEERA
Come to Grandfather Pine. We’ll show you. (Exit.)

SCENE 4
The meeting before the Pizza Party

MAX
I want the X-Box.

RANDY
What if I want the X-box, too.

LILIAN
You said you wanted the skateboard. It’s a Zero.

RANDY

Well I have a decent skateboard, but I don’t have an X-box.

MAX

I kinda liked the Rollerblades…

LILIAN

Actually, Max, you could have those right now…

GINA

That’s not fair!

RANDY

Why do we have to wait until after the fashion show?

LILIAN

Hold on. No one will get anything if we don’t have one more person, and MAX can get somebody.

MAX

What do you mean?

LILIAN

Well, find Chris, Sam, Meera, Susi, or Anna, and get one of them to do the fashion show, and the rollerblades are yours.

MAX

How am I going to convince any of them to do a fashion show. You can tell none of them care about fashion just by looking at them. (General mean laughter.)

LILIAN

Alright. You just get someone to come here, and I’ll do the convincing.

MAX

For the in-line skates and I-pod, I’ll get someone.

LILIAN

Deal (Max Exits.) Let’s go look at what I have in my closet for Gina. (Exit.)