

## **“An Honest Look at Fathers”**

by  
Paul Neil

- What** This Father's Day Readers Theater describes several types of dads and celebrates the men who have been part of our stories.  
**Themes:** Dads, Fatherhood, Fathers, Father's Day
- Who** Reader 1  
Reader 2  
Reader 3
- When** Present
- Wear  
(Props)** Your stage.  
Black folders for each reader.
- Why** Exodus 20:13
- How** This will work best if your readers are a mix of ages and types. Reader 1 should be able to pull off an upper-class sound for the first several lines that are delivered grandly. The stage whispers must remain loud while giving the impression the readers are sharing “inside” information.
- Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*Readers enter, take their places, and open their folders.*

**Reader 1:** *(grandly, as though delivering deep scholarly information)* A meditation upon the properties of fathers.

**Reader 2:** *(conspiratorially)* Can we be honest for a second?

**Reader 1:** *(grandly)* A father plays golf.

**Reader 3:** *(loud stage whisper)* My dad wouldn't know a golf ball from a hardboiled egg.

**Reader 1:** *(grandly)* A father watches the big game and screams at the TV.

**Reader 2:** *(loud stage whisper)* My dad watches Masterpiece Theater and pledges to PBS.

**Reader 1:** *(grandly)* A father is stoic and never cries—unless maybe when his team loses the super bowl.

**Reader 3:** *(loud stage whisper)* My dad volunteers at the hospital and cries every time he leaves a kid's room.

**Reader 1:** *(grandly)* A father takes naps in the hammock after he mows the grass.

**Reader 2:** *(loud stage whisper)* My dad is allergic to the outside.

**Reader 1:** *(grandly)* A father likes someone to fetch his newspaper and slippers after dinner while he relaxes in his recliner.

**Reader 3:** *(loud stage whisper)* My dad browses Facebook on his phone while he's waiting in the car to pick my sister up from cheer.

**Reader 1:** *(grandly)* A father likes to tinker under the hood.

**Reader 2:** *(loud stage whisper)* My dad couldn't tell a spark plug from a piston.

**Reader 1:** *(grandly)* A father couldn't change a diaper if his life depended on it.

**Reader 3:** *(loud stage whisper)* My dad wrangled all the Pampers the day my mom went back to work.

**Reader 1:** *(fed up with his own statements, drops the grand persona)* Enough of that. Look, we all know this to be true...

**Reader 2:** Every dad is different.

**Reader 3:** Some dads run the vacuum on Saturday; some trim the hedges.

**Reader 1:** Some dads wear a necktie to work; some wear coveralls.

**Reader 3:** Some dads are home every night to eat dinner; some cook dinner for everyone else.

**Reader 2:** Some dads hug only on special occasions—like the return of Halley's comet; some squeeze you hard enough to break ribs every time you leave.

**Reader 3:** Some dads are young and spry; some have passed away.

**Reader 1:** *(tenderly, with heart)* Now...can we get REALLY honest?

**Reader 2:** Some dads accepted us only grudgingly; some planned for us.

**Reader 1:** Some dads are our best friends; some were never in our lives.

**Reader 3:** Some dads helped make us; some came into our lives much later.

**All:** My dad is different from your dad.

**Reader 2:** But one thing we have in common...

**Reader 1:** Those bio dads and adoptive dads and step dads and foster dads and those *(quickly)* dads-who-aren't-even really-our-dads-but-poured-time-and-energy-and-love-into-us-anyway...

**Reader 3:** Those fragments of them are parts of our stories.

**Reader 2:** And as you might know, we are made of our stories.

**Reader 1:** That's how God—our heavenly Father—designed us.

**Reader 2:** So today, all dads of every kind...

**Reader 1:** From your children just as diverse...

**Reader 3:** We celebrate you.

**All:** Happy Father's Day.

*Lights out.*