



## The Legend of Sal Fink

### Characters

Mike Fink

Ma Fink

Sal Fink

Pirate 1

Pirate 2

Pirate 3

### Setting

**This reader's theater takes place in the woods somewhere near the border of Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri, where the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers meet. A rustic house stands in the background, surrounded by many trees. A path runs away from the house and into the woods. The sound of rushing water can be heard in the distance.**



### Act I

**Mike Fink:**

Well, hello! I'm Mike Fink, and I'm here to tell you about my daughter, Sal, "The Mississippi Screamer."

**Ma Fink:**

*Our* daughter, Sal, "The Mississippi Screamer"!

**Mike Fink:**

Right you are, my dear, *our* daughter! But, you do have to admit, she takes mostly after me.

**Ma Fink:**

How do you figure that? Sal always says she is "one of the gals." And, Mike, if you haven't noticed, that is something she and I share and you definitely do not!

**Mike Fink:**

True. True. But, ain't I the roughest, toughest, strongest, bravest, LOUDEST, handsomest, most colorful keelboat captain on the American rivers?

**Ma Fink:**

You are all that—and the biggest braggart, as well!

**Mike Fink:**

That's true! But, ain't Sal the roughest, toughest, strongest, bravest, LOUDEST, handsomest, and most colorful daughter of a keelboat captain on the American rivers?



**Ma Fink:** There is no denying it. But, you are forgetting all the ways that Sal takes after me! For instance, she is charming and kind! And, “Big Mike Fink, King of the Keel-boaters,” you may do well to remember that you are not the only brave, strong, tough person in this family!

**Mike Fink:** Now, dear, I didn’t mean to say . . .

**Ma Fink:** Maybe you have forgotten that on the very day I was to give birth to Sal, I single-handedly caught a robber in our house! Then I chased that putrefied serpent with my shotgun and scared him straight!

**Mike Fink:** You were magnificent that day! But, you have to admit, our Sal has a bit of a wild streak in her. I mean to say, catching a wild alligator and riding it down the river while dancing on its back and singing “Yankee Doodle”—does that sound like something you would do?

**Ma Fink:** No, no indeed. That does seem a lot more like you, Mike.

### Song: Yankee Doodle



## Act 2

**Sal Fink:** Hi, Ma! Hi, Pa! What are you two up to?

**Ma Fink:** Hi, Sal! Well, if you must know, we were here telling these nice folks about you!

**Sal Fink:** Braggin’ again? Well, if there is one thing this family is great at, that’s it! That’s how we get in all the papers!

**Mike Fink:** It’s good to be in the newspapers, Sal. What is the point of being able to outrun, outshoot, throw down, drag out, and lick any man in the country if no one knows about it?

**Sal Fink:** But, Pa, when I was in town, I saw a story all about “The Great Mike Fink.” It told how he rides all over the world on a moose instead of a horse. Now, we both know you only ride that moose into town every once in a while!

**Ma Fink:** Well, that *is* a stretch of the truth. But, we are fascinating, and it is only natural that people are curious. Take those two bear cubs that follow you around like a pair of pups. Would you care to tell the folks how you came by them?