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Too Loud Lily

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Laguna, Sofie. *Too Loud Lily*. Illustrated by Argent, Kerry. Scholastic Press, 2004. ISBN 0439579139. \$14.95. 32 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading Level: Preschool

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Humorous Stories; Picture Books;

Subject: Hippopotamus--Juvenile literature; Noise--Juvenile fiction; Behavior modification--Juvenile fiction; Theater--Juvenile fiction; Schools--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Lily Hippo can't do anything quietly no matter how hard she tries. She sings too loudly and wakes her baby brother. She's noisy when she reads. At school, Lily gets her friends Hester and Lou into trouble when she laughs too loudly at the note they pass her. The arrival of a new music and drama teacher, the colorful Miss Loopiola, prompts Lily to try out for the school play. The drama teacher's encouragement is just what Lily needs. Miss Loopiola tells Lily to stomp louder when she dances. She lets her provide the sound effects for the storm scene by crashing cymbals and banging a drum. On opening night, Lily shines, and realizes that the play is the perfect outlet for her boisterous behavior. The premise of the story seems to be that there is a time and a place for everything. The text is minimal, and it is Kerry Argent's colorful and energetic illustrations that move the story along. Argent captures Lily's vibrant personality perfectly. Many of the illustrations are quite funny, for example, Miss Loopiola is a hippo who wears bright red nail polish, a bright red poncho and lots of clunky jewelry. Any child who has ever had trouble keeping quiet will relate to Lily.