Cool Duck & Lots of Hats

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This two-in-one early reader book combines simple stories with amusing illustrations that will surely captivate young readers. The first story begins with a hot cat, a hot dog, and a cool duck. When the cat ends up chasing the duck into the pond, with the dog following closely behind, they all get the benefit of cooling off in the water. In the second story, a boy and his parents are on a hike with their dog when the wind blows each of their hats off—first Sam’s “big hat,” then Dad’s “big, big hat,” and finally Mom’s “big, big, big hat.” In the end, the energetic family dog ends up with all the hats.

Though Cool Duck & Lots of Hats seems overly simple at first, it’s perfect for young readers who are learning to read aloud and follow a storyline. Both stories begin with a helpful introduction which includes (1) how to write a certain letter that is prominent in the story, (2) words to become familiar with before reading, (3) tips for reading the story, and (4) a fun discussion activity, e.g. “Discuss all the different things you can do to keep cool.” Crisp and vibrant digital illustrations take up the majority of the pages, which are pleasant for readers both young and old to look at, and the easily visible text is placed creatively around the illustrations. Overall, this is an outstanding book that is a delight to read and look at and highly valuable to young readers.