

Museum by Tina Howe

LIZ

You know, his parents are deaf mutes...*both* of them...profoundly deaf...Can you imagine what it must have been like growing up with parents who couldn't hear you? I mean, when would you figure out that it was *their* affliction and not yours? How could a baby realize there was anything unusual about his parents? (pause) Since he never heard them utter a word, he must have assumed he couldn't speak either. He could hear his own little baby sounds of course, but he had no idea what they were...When he cried ... no one heard him. Of course, he cried! All babies cry. Even deaf babies. Don't forget, his parents could always *see* him cry. Sooner or later he must have realized that in order to get their attention he didn't really *have to cry*, all he had to do was go through the motions...(*she opens her mouth and cries without making a sound*) When Moe finally realized that his meandering attempts at speech fell on deaf ears --- He chose painting as his voice...