

Little Frog and the Spring Polliwogs

By Jane Yolen • Illustrated by Ellen Shi

EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

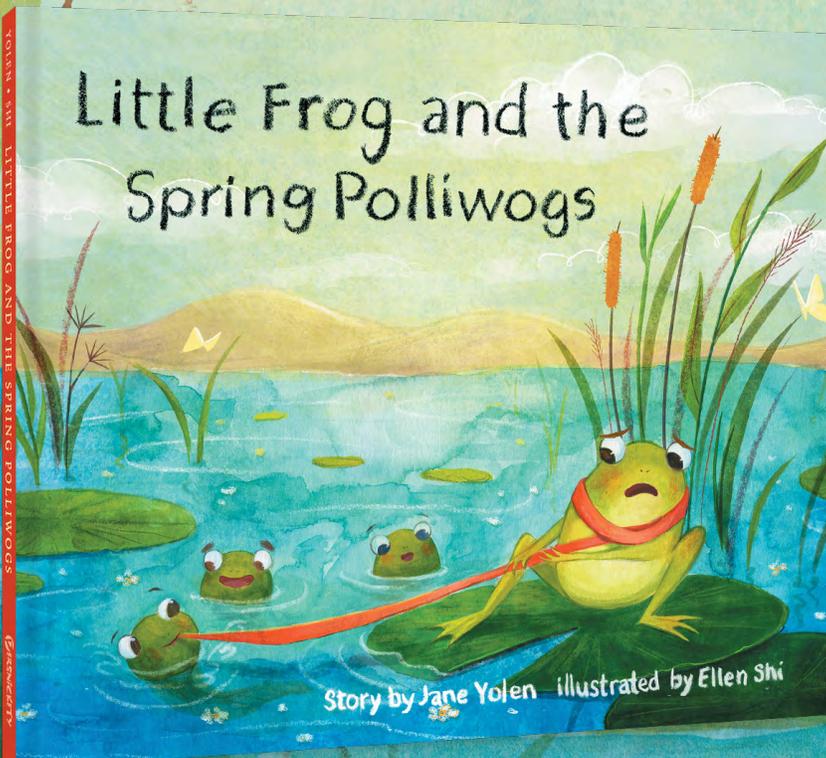
CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

STEM

- Science – nature, the seasons, life cycle of frogs

Reading and Language Arts

- Reading – story elements: setting, plot and character development, problem and solution, main idea, sequence of events
- Language Arts – lyrical text, poetry, rhythm and rhyme
- Social Studies – families
- Character education



GUIDED
READING
LEVEL

L

GRADE
LEVEL
EQUIVALENT

2

INTEREST
LEVEL

PreK -
Grade 3

LEXILE

610

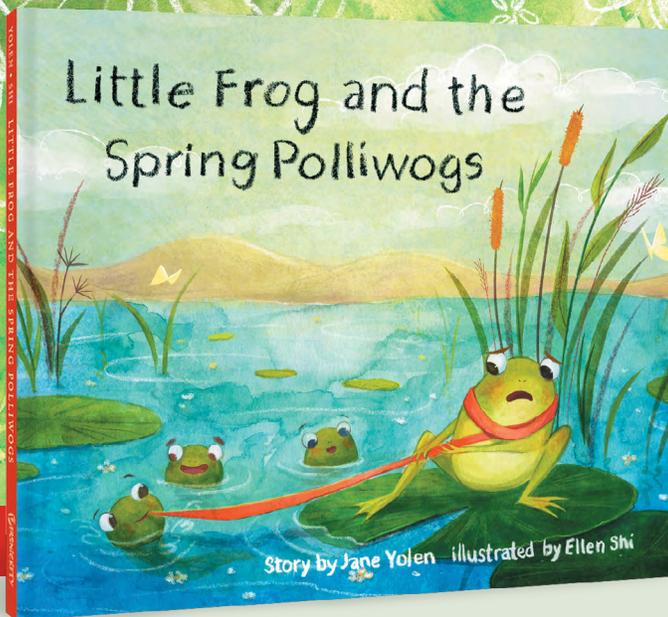
COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS/INSTRUCTIONAL STRAND

RF.2,3,4a,4c

W.2,2,3,6,7,8

SL.2.1,1b,1c,2,3,4,6

L.2.1,2,3,4,4a,4c,4d,5,5a,5b



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It is springtime at the pond, and that means dozens of little long-tailed dark dots are muddying up the waters. Little Frog does not like these “brothers, sisters, or cousins” as Mama Frog calls them. She much prefers being an “Only.” But when trouble comes to the pond in a pair of red boots, long skinny poles, and stringy nets, Little Frog knows that three of the tadpoles—her baby brothers—are in danger. It’s up to her to save them in this warm picture book about family relationships.

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

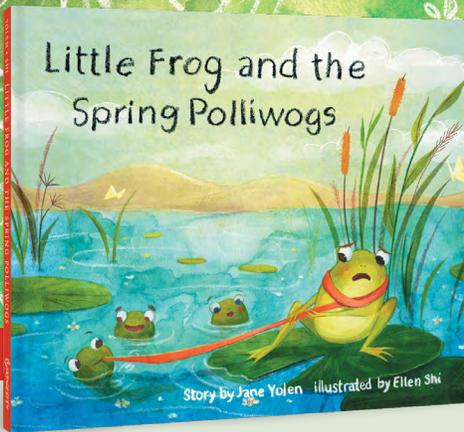
Language Arts: Reading Comprehension, Critical Thinking

To make sure your students understand the story, recognize themes, and retain the details, ask:

- Mama Frog calls all the little polliwogs in the pond “brothers, sisters, cousins.” Papa Frog calls them “tadpoles.” What does Little Frog call them? Why?
- Name some of the things that Little Frog likes about being an “Only.”
- How does Little Frog feel when Mama Frog holds the tadpoles and sings to them?
- How does Little Frog know that trouble is near?
- What does Little Frog do to alert her brothers that they are in danger?

RL 2.1, 2.2, 2.3





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FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION

Language Arts: Critical Thinking, Speaking and Listening

- What do your students think Papa Frog means when he tells Little Frog: “alas, most of [the tadpoles] will not become frogs?”
- Uncle Frog warns Little Frog “Boys with nets and off you gets.” What does your class think Uncle Frog means?
- Open up a discussion of why Little Frog changes her mind about helping the tadpoles who are heading straight for the Red Boots. Ask if anyone in the class has ever done something because it was right or to make their parents proud, even though it was something they didn’t want to do. Students should give examples.
- Discuss positions in families. Ask if students think it is better to be an only child, the oldest child, the youngest child, or the child in the middle. They should support their opinions with personal experiences or observations.

RL 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4; SL 2.1, 2.4

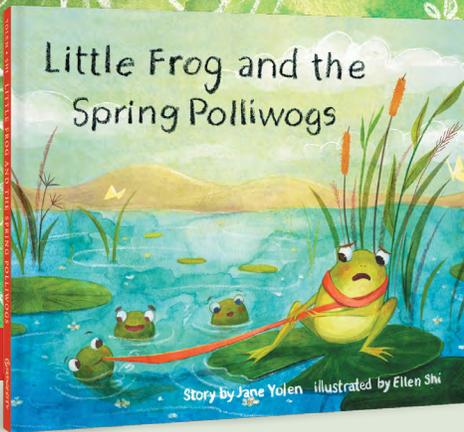
ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Vocabulary

- As they read *Little Frog and the Spring Polliwogs* your students may come across words they are unfamiliar with. They should make a list of those words, then write each word on one side of an index card. On the other side, they should write its definition and a sentence using the word.

RL 2.4





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Language Arts: Rhythm and Rhyme; Music

- Mama Frog does some singing in the story. You can share some frog songs and poems with your class and talk about what the songs mean or the message presented. For starters, try these websites: www.kidzone.ws/lw/frogs/activities-songs.htm and www.google.com/search?q=FROG+SONGS+FOR+CHILDREN&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8#q=frog+songs+youtube

RL 2.2; SL 2.1, 2.2

Art; Cooperative Learning; Language Arts: Speaking and Listening

- Have your students work in pairs to create a favorite scene or character from the book. They can draw, make collages, do a simple shadow box, or create puppets. Each team should present their work orally and in writing to the class, explaining the media they used and why they chose the subject they did. Turn a corner of your classroom into “Little Frog’s Pond in Spring” and display all their work.

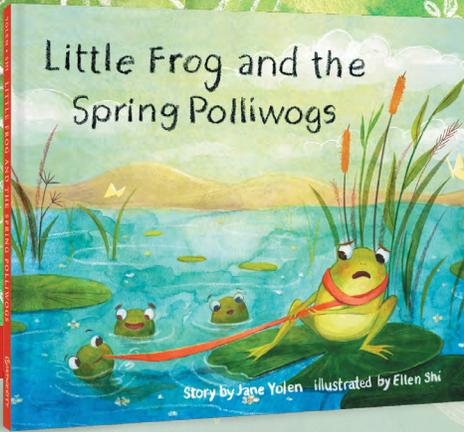
W 2.2, 2.5, 2.7, 2.9; SL 2.1, 2.2, 2.5

Language Arts: Writing; Speaking and Listening

- At the end of *Little Frog and the Spring Polliwogs*, Uncle Frog reveals to Little Frog that he is her papa’s big brother. Young children may not know how the family relations are structured. With the help of their parents, each child should create a simple family tree to include grandparents and aunts and uncles and parents and siblings. The Family Tree template in the next page will make it easy for even very young children to see where they fit in their family.

W 2.3, 2.5





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MY FAMILY TREE

**Mom's Parents
Your Grandparents**

**Dad's Parents
Your Grandparents**

