

One Night In Frogtown

STUDY GUIDE

"This tale about the celebration of cultural diversity uses music as a metaphor, and the message of understanding, acceptance, and respect will resonate with young listeners".
-**School Library Journal**

Instructions: This study guide is designed to be used along with the *One Night In Frogtown* Book/CD in classrooms in preparation for attending the **Live Stage Show**.

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One Night In Frogtown - ISBN# 978-0-9786176-3-9. Special Educational Discounts are available for all FROGTOWN books, CDs, DVDs and can be ordered from our website: www.FROGTOWNCENTRAL.com

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1. Cultural Diversity

Cultural diversity is explored in an engaging and relevant way in "One Night In Frogtown". Using music as a metaphor, the groups of frogs in Frogtown symbolize the intolerance of others we see in the world today, whether by race, religion, socio-economic status.

-What is this story about?

-Why does Tad leave his egg?

-What kind of music does Tad like?

-Why do the Bluesfrogs kick Tad out of their Toadstool?

-Why do the Treefrogs think they are better than everyone else?

-How are the groups of frogs different?

(They are different colors, play different styles of music, live in different places, occupy different status/class levels)

-What do the groups of frogs have in common?

-What is "peer pressure"?

How does peer pressure affect Tad in the story?

-Where have you seen prejudice?

-Where do we see people not getting along in today's world? (wars, etc)

2. Finding Your Inner Voice

Dealing with peer pressure is not so easy. Frogtown shows the importance of making up your own mind and staying true to yourself, even when others try to influence you.

-How does Tad find his "inner voice"?

-What is your "inner voice"?

-What does Tad learn from the song "Alone"?

-What happens at the end of the story?

3. Music

Frogtown exposes kids to diverse music styles.

-What was your favorite song in "*One Night In Frogtown*"?

-What are the styles of music in Frogtown?
(*blues, classical, rap, hip-hop, pop, and R&B*).

-What are some other musical styles in America?
(*Bluegrass, Roots, Country & Western, Rock n Roll, Reggae, Rap, Heavy Metal, Ska, Jazz, Punk, New Wave, Folk, Techno, Soul, etc*).

-How are they different?

-What do they have in common?

-Name some music styles from around the world.

-What are some of your favorite kinds of music?

4. Sound

The "One Night In Frogtown" CD utilizes sounds of real frogs mixed in with the music.

-Have kids listen for when they hear the frogs while listening to the "*One Night In Frogtown*" CD.

-Name 5 sounds that you can hear right now.

-What are some of your favorite sounds?

-"*Learning to Listen*" - listen to a piece of music and have students try to identify all the instruments playing. Try this with different styles - orchestra, pop, hip-hop, etc.

5. Art

The illustrations are a big part of the experience of "One Night In Frogtown".

-Draw your own frog playing music.

-Draw the life cycle of a frog (egg, tadpole, frog).

-Draw your own pond creature (frog, salamander, fish, bugs, birds, etc).

-Decorate the classrooms and hallways with the students' drawings.

6. Fun Frog Facts

Q-How long have frogs existed?

A-Frogs have been roaming the Earth for more than 200,000,000 years, at least as long as the dinosaurs.

Q-How many kinds of frogs are there?

A-There are more than 5,000 known species of frogs, with at least 10 new species being discovered every year!

Q-How far can frogs jump?

A-Launched by their long legs, many frogs can leap more than 20 times their body length.

Q-How big do frogs get?

A-The world's largest frog is the 7-pound "African Goliath", which grows to 15 inches and can outjump an Olympic athlete.

Q-How long do frogs live?

A-Frogs can live more than 20 years.

Q-Why do frogs have bulging eyeballs?

A-Frogs have excellent night vision and are quite sensitive to movement. The bulging eyes of most species allow them to see in front, to the sides, and partially behind them. When a frog swallows food, it pulls its eyes into the roof of its mouth to help push the food down its throat.

Q-How far can frogs croak?

A-Frogs were the first land animals with vocal cords. Male frogs have vocal sacs--pouches of skin that fill with air. These balloons resonate sounds like a megaphone, and some can be heard more than a mile away.

Q-Frogs are cold-blooded. How cold can frogs survive?

A-The "Wood Frog" can live north of the Arctic Circle, surviving for weeks with 65% of its body frozen. This frog uses glucose in its blood as a kind of antifreeze that concentrates in its vital organs, protecting them from damage while the rest of the body freezes solid.

Q-What is the "Dart Poison Frog"?

A-The "Dart Poison Frog" is so named because the Embera Choco, indigenous people of

northwestern Colombia, poison their blow darts by rubbing them along the backs of these frogs.

Q-What's the longest a frog can go without water?

A-The "Australian Water-Holding Frog" can wait up to 7 years for rain. It burrows underground and surrounds itself in a transparent cocoon made of its own shed skin.

7a. Music Performance - "Above It All"

Music teachers can rehearse their choir students to sing along with the classical song "Above It All" on the "One Night In Frogtown" CD. Participating schools can have their choirs perform in the actual Live Stage Show along with the Frogtown cast.

*SOLO - Although we're quite small
SOLO - our tree is big and tall
SOLO - that's how we always stay
ALL - Above It All*

*SOLO - We live without a care
SOLO - for those who live down there
SOLO - relax and breathe the air
ALL - Above It All*

*GIRLS - Oh we know we're the best
BOYS - who cares about the rest
GIRLS - We are so well dressed
ALL - we really must be blessed*

*SOLO - Everything is just so
SOLO - we always make it show
SOLO - and that is all we know
ALL - Above It All*

*SOLO - We're the cream of the crop
SOLO - 'cause we're the ones on top
SOLO - that's why we'll never stop
ALL - being Above It All*

*GIRLS - Oh we know we're the best
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GIRLS - We are so well dressed
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*GIRLS - Everything is just so
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GIRLS - and that is all we know
ALL - Above It All

ALL - We're the cream of the crop
ALL - 'cause we're the ones on top
ALL - that's why we'll never stop
ALL - being Above It All

7b. Music Performance - "Frogtown"

Music teachers can rehearse their choir students to sing along with the finale number "Frogtown" on the "One Night In Frogtown" CD. Participating schools can have their choirs perform in the actual Live Stage Show along with the Frogtown cast.

SOLO - Frogtown's got all kinds of frogs
SOLO - some play drums inside of logs
SOLO - Clarinet players in the trees
SOLO - rapping underwater MCs
SOLO - Bullfrogs blowin' on the bass trombone
SOLO - Tadpoles jammin' on the saxophone

ALL - Pollywogs singing in the reeds
ALL - webfoot violinists bow in the breeze
ALL - Jazz amphibians swing in the lilies
ALL - they are serious, don't you see

ALL - Frogtown
ALL - Where the bugs are juicy
ALL - and the water is blue
ALL - Frogtown
ALL - Where the fish are jumping
ALL - and the music is too

SOLO - Our story here has just been told
SOLO - like a ripple on the water
SOLO - making circles of gold
SOLO - and music beats inside the soul
SOLO - of even the tiniest tadpole

8. Creative Writing

-Have students write their own story that takes place in Frogtown.

-Have the students illustrate their story with their own drawings.

-Have small groups write their own short play about how friends who are different come together and accomplish a goal. Perform it for the class.

9. Creative Transformation

Art can help us process difficult events in our lives, and transform them into positive energy in the world.

-Frogtown creator Philip Pelletier was deeply affected by the LA Riots. What were they? Why did they happen? How do we avoid that happening again?

-*One Night In Frogtown* was written right after 9/11. How did that event influence the story?

-What are some other difficult experiences in life that art can help us process and transform?

10. Frogs & Ecology

Frogs are one of the most sensitive animals in the world and react very rapidly to substantial changes in their environments. They also form vital parts of the ecosystems they belong to. That is why they are considered "an indicator species" - the species that "indicate" the state of the health of their ecosystems. When the frog population is showing stress, that means that our environment is under stress. Frogs have had a mystical significance in many cultures throughout history, including the Mayans, The Egyptians, The Greeks and ancient Rome. Humans should pay more attention to frogs!

Q-What are some of the ecological issues facing our world today?

Q-What is happening to the world's frog populations?

Q-What kinds of frogs live in your area? Have kids research the frogs in their area and do a report in front of the class about it.