



lizards, frogs, and polliwogs

Douglas Florian

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From transparent glass frogs and ravenous rattlesnakes to sticky geckos and stressed-out skinks, this slithery spectacle showcases once again Douglas Florian's incomparable skill for making poetry informative, fun-- and irresistible!

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Author : Douglas Florian

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From Reader Review lizards, frogs, and polliwogs for online ebook

Jessica says

I really like the poems and made up words. The illustrations are unique, but not my style. Hopefully students will enjoy them.

Syeda says

Lizards, Frogs and Polliwogs by Douglas Florian is a beautifully illustrated book of poems about reptiles and amphibians. I loved to look at the painted pictures of the animals. The poetry is a mix of humor with important facts about certain characteristics of animals portrayed in the book.

This book can be taught to all elementary grades specifically to students K- 3. My site based teacher uses this book with other informational texts to teach a science unit about Amphibians. From my readings, I learned that rhymes help with phonemic awareness and studying the word families. Another fun activity for younger grades could be reading the poem to students without showing the picture and trying to have the students guess the animal. Overall, I would recommend the book because it communicates important information with humor and poetry which keeps the students engaged and interested in learning otherwise dry topics.

Rebecca says

Florian pairs 21 poems about reptiles and amphibians awith outsider-style art by the author. The effect is appealing, as are his silly epigrams that use shape, rhymes and puns to convey information and fun.

Linda says

I recently searched for good mentor texts for a lesson in using information to write poetry, specifically frogs this time, and found another wonderful book by Douglas Florian. This is filled with delightfully varied poems about all kinds of amphibians, and helped my lesson because it included poems about a bullfrog, a red-eyed tree frog, and the wonderful spring peepers. I had the wonderful experience of hearing the peepers on a trip to the Poconos with my students a few years ago, and this poem captures what we heard, as in Each spring/We sing/To bring//A mate,/And make you stay/Awake too late. Like all his poetry anthologies, Florian's paintings are beautifully creative in their approach to the animals. For instance, in the illustration for peepers shows a wide awake child with peepers sitting on his face (keeping him awake).

Rosa says

"Fork in front,
Rattle behind.
The lump in the middle?
Don't pay any mind.

"Scales up high.
Scales down low.
The lump in the middle?
You don't want to know.

"Diamonds above,
Diamonds below.
The lump in the middle?
A rabbit too slow."

I would get this book just for the illustrations (wonderfully expressive paintings and collages on brown paper bags), but the above poem is what made me fall in love.

Kaitlin Moriarty says

This book is a poetry book. I loved the illustrations in this book as well as the fact that the poems are written in different ways. For example, the poem "The Gecko" is written in the square. This book could also be incorporated into a science lesson on amphibians.

Wendi says

This book you get to learn all about the different reptiles. What they look like and how they act. It's a longer kids book to read.

Jill says

What's so great about Douglas Florian is that he excels at both writing and illustrations, and that he makes poetry so much fun. Here he takes a topic bound to appeal to many kids, which concerns those living things that go slithering, hopping, and moseying along in the grass or the sand, and that so fascinate people, especially little ones.

His poetry is quite entertaining. Here is what he says about the cobra, for example:

"It's wise to stay clear
Of the dangerous cobra.
All months of the year,
Including Octobra."

As someone who used to follow Gila Monsters around whenever I was lucky enough to see one in Tucson, I appreciated this one because it's so true:

"They call me monster just because
I have short legs and clumsy claws,
And poison in my jaws,
And look

Like someone's composition book."

Kids will even learn some things about amphibians and reptiles painlessly and fun:

"We polliwoggle.
We polliwiggle.
We shake in lakes,
Make wakes,
And wriggle.
We quiver,
We shiver,
We jiggle,
We jog.
We're hearing
To turn ourselves
Into a frog."

The illustrations, whimsical and clever, are done in watercolor on primed brown paper bags with collage. My favorite is the one of the box turtle.

Evaluation: I don't think anyone can go wrong by choosing a poetry book written and illustrated by Douglas Florian.

Brad says

Rare wonders abound
Evergladly in Florian's poems.
Polliwogs, frogs, and lizards
Terribly cute and kitschy and surreal.
I'd have liked more consistency
Less rhythmic dissonance
Else this book was a joy that made us smile
Scoutie will attest, reptilian wonders are the best

Sorry about the acrostic poem. Bronte and Milos have been writing them lately, and it seemed a fitting way to honour Florian's lizards frogs and polliwogs. Scoutie loved it, and she's the proper critic for this book.

Bernadette says

This is a collection of 21 poems all about reptiles and amphibians, such as the bullfrog, newt, gecko, cobra, and iguana. It is a great mix of humor and nonfiction accompanied by creative and unique paintings.

What can I say? I liked Insectlopedia so much that when I saw this one on the shelf I had to pick it up too. I like Insectlopedia better, but I can't put my finger on why. Again, Florian uses a variety of types of poems and invented words. My favorite word was 'toadally' because I've used that one before in a display. I liked best the two concrete poems, one about a cobra and one about a gecko. I also enjoyed the way the letters

were written in 'The Polliwogs' – they match the movement of the animals described. I love that creativity! These two books are must-haves for any elementary science teachers. They would be a great way to integrate the language arts into science, or science into language arts!

Ann Ferber says

This is a pretty popular poetry book in elementary schools that I have been in. It can be used within a lesson about amphibians and reptiles or it could also be used as a mentor text throughout the day. The poetry in this book is not only silly and unique but it is also informative as well. Unlike a lot of the other books I chose for this text set, it is also all beautiful paintings for its illustrations. The use of paintings instead of pictures is great for children because it helps broaden their imaginations. It shows that when they draw these animals their drawings can be as fun and exciting as they want them to be.

Meghan Brigan says

Lizards, Frogs, and Pilliwogs is a fun collection of poetry about reptiles and amphibians. It is for children age five and up. There is entertaining word play and puns used within the poems. The artwork accompanies the poems wonderfully adding to the playfulness of the poems. Children often like catching frogs and other critters so the unique collage artwork will fascinate children. This book could be used as a teaching tool as well, since it teaches about various reptiles.

Katie says

Great children's book of concrete poems. Kids can take time looking at the pictures as well as the way the words are written to reflect the animals in the book. I like that this one in particular covers more than the average animal...like the komodo dragon, the gila monster and the red-eyed tree frog.

MaryKathryn Lambert says

This poetry book features all things slimy and will give a good laugh. This is great to use in the classroom to show students that poetry can be fun.

Polly says

A poet who illustrates with artwork painted on paper bags. Need I say more. I really enjoy these and use them for art class, and for reading to my kids all the time. My favorite poem is about the bullfrog.

Tanya says

There were several things I enjoyed about this book, however, there were some things that I didn't really like. Overall, the illustrations set a good mood for the book. They were bright and somewhat like a child created them. If you looked more closely, there was more details in the illustrations than what I saw at first glance. This is a book of poems about reptiles and amphibians. It would be a fun book to use to read a page without showing the picture and try to have the students guess what is on the page. I don't think that would work with every page, but it would be easy to use the ones that would.

Caitlin C says

This book immediately became one of my favorites. Douglas Florian's *lizards, frogs, and polliwogs* is an adorable collection of poems about various reptiles and amphibians, animals I have loved ever since I was a little girl. The book is targeted at children in grades 1-4, but I absolutely love the poems myself as an adult!

Lizards, frogs, and polliwogs will be a staple in my future classrooms. It's a great versatile text to read aloud to children, to be read by children, to use as a mentor text on poetry and even as an informational text. Many of the poems incorporate facts about the animal in question, such as the skink, whose tail drops off when threatened. It can even be used to compare/contrast animals, such as comparing the box turtle and the tortoise, or contrasting reptiles with amphibians.

There are so many good things to say about this book, I don't even know where to begin. A couple of the things I really, really love are the layout of the print in some poems ("The Skink", "The Gecko", and "The Python" especially!), which accentuate some feature about the animal. For instance, in "The Gecko", the text is written in a box shape and the poem mentions "The gecko's trick is climbing walls." "The Python" is shaped in a spiral, which suggests how these snakes coil around and squeeze their prey. Another thing I loved is how fun the poems are! They are full of puns and word play like rhyming Octobra with cobra. I'm sure young children would be delighted by these poems because of how fun they are to read and listen to.

The illustrations, which I believe Florian also did, are very stylized but are so cute. They really add a special touch to the book.

This collection is definitely a must-read!

Jennifer says

Ah, Mr. Florian - my students are always amazed to know that there are other great children's poets out there. I am working hard to bring you out from the shadow of Shel and Jack P. I love the tree frog poem!

Austin says

I read the poem, "The Diamondback Rattlesnake".

Beverly says

Cute, succinct poems; I am not as taken with his artwork
