

Dear Treefrog

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS



Themes: Change, Curiosity, Friendship, Patience

Book Brief: When a shy girl moves to a strange new home, she discovers a treefrog perched in a secret spot nearby. She learns that sometimes, all it takes to connect with the people and the world around us is a little patience, a curious mind, and a willingness to see the world through a different perspective than your own.

Author:
Joyce Sidman

Illustrator:
Diana Sudyka

Content Connections:
Science

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Read the title aloud to students. Ask students when they would use the word “dear.” Explain to your students that the word “dear” is used at the beginning of a letter. Based on the cover image and title, have students make predictions about who is writing the letter and to whom they are writing.

The Pictures: Flip through the pictures and explain the book’s unique format. This book is divided into seasons starting with summer. On

the left page, the girl is sharing a “letter poem” to a treefrog. The right page provides facts about treefrogs. [Note: Consider reading aloud just the letter poems during the first reading for effect and adding the facts about treefrogs during the second reading.]

Purpose for Reading: “A theme is the author’s message in a story. As we read, think about what themes or messages the author is expressing through the girl’s letter poems to the treefrog.”

WHILE WE READ

MAKING INFERENCES

- On the first page, point to the image of the moving van and read “Little Nest Moving Company.” Ask students how the girl feels about moving. What details from the pictures make them think that?
- Why do you think the girl asks the frog if it is new here too?
- Why does the girl have to be different than her “everyday self” to find the frog?
- Why is the girl glad the frog hid from the other kids?
- How does the frog help the girl to be brave?
- What happens when the girl makes a new friend?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: What themes or messages is the author expressing through the girl’s letter poems to the treefrog in this story?

Extending Our Thinking: This story goes through each of the seasons and follows the girl as well as the treefrog. On a whiteboard, write out each of the seasons. Then have your students share ideas about

what they do and how they change during each season.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- Extension Activities for Educators are also available.
- Vocabulary Scaffolding sheet also available.