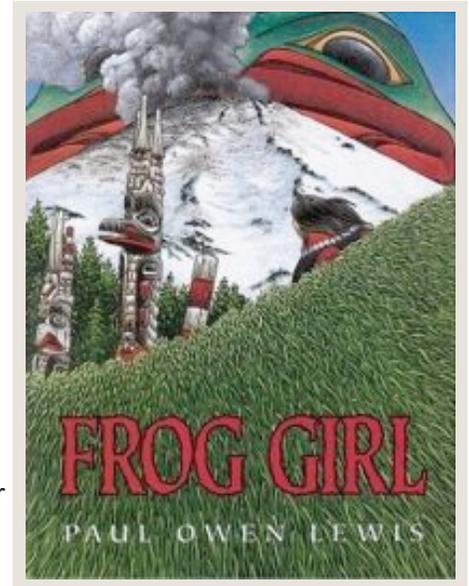




Title: Frog Girl
Author: Paul Owen Lewis
Genre: Picture Book (Fiction)
Cultural Connection: Respect, Family, Cultural Artifacts, Transformation



PLOT SUMMARY

On a visit to the lake, behind her village, the chief's youngest daughter discovers two boys in the act of capturing the frogs that inhabit it. After they leave she approaches the lake but hears no singing—just a lone voice calling out to her. The chief's daughter looks down and sees a small frog in the tall grass. The edge of the lake lifts up and the two walk under and enter a deserted village at the bottom of the lake. The frog girl gives the chief's daughter a button blanket and takes her into one of the lodges to meet her grandmother, Volcano Woman. When the grandmother asks where her children are the chief's daughter tells her about the two boys that she saw that morning. As they speak the fire grows hotter and the floor begins to rumble. Afraid for their safety the frog girl guides the chief's daughter back to the lake shore. Black smoke fills the air and thunder roars in the distance. The chief's daughter returns to her own village to find it deserted except for the frogs who were hidden in a bentwood box in the corner of a lodge. She transfers them to a basket and carries them back through the burning forest and returns them to the lake. As they slip below the surface the rain begins to fall. The girl tells her people the story of the frog village and says, "You see, they're our sisters and brothers. We should treat them so."

LEARNING INTENTION

Focus Reading Connection: #6 Visualizing

Readers visualize when they make images in their heads from the text they are reading or that is being read to them. When talking to students about visualizing it is important to emphasize that:

1. Visualizing is easy to do.
2. Visualizing and connecting are very similar. The images that you create in your mind come from connecting the author's words to your memories.
3. There are many colourful words that help you create pictures (popcorn, etc.)

This lesson uses structured partner talk as a learning strategy. To learn more about partner talk please refer to the Educator's page on our website.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 1 copy of Frog Girl
- 1 empty file folder
- 1 pencil and drawing paper for each student



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BEFORE

- Explain to the class what visualizing is (making a picture in your head from the author's words).
- Explain that visualizing is easy to do and with practise it helps you to deepen your understanding of the text.
- Explain that because each person has a distinct collection of memories and their own unique way of thinking, that today's activity will be a different experience for each student.

DURING

- Conceal the cover of the book Frog Girl (hidden inside a file folder works well).
- Starting at the top of the cover illustration and working downwards give a detailed verbal description of the picture (some students might want to close their eyes as the description is being given).
- Invite the students to ask you questions about the cover illustration that might lead to a clearer or more detailed mental image.
- Provide each student with a piece of drawing paper. Ask each of them to sketch their mental image.
- After 10 minutes of sketching have each student share their drawing with one partner.
- Have them point out the important details in their drawings to their partners.
- Allow the students to add to and alter their own drawings for a few more minutes.
- Show the cover illustration to the class (could be on an overhead or an Elmo).
- Have students turn back to the same partner to share their final drawings. Have them compare the two drawings (What is the same about them? What is different?).
- Select several students to report out their observations to the whole group "Something the same about my picture and my partner's picture is....". Something different about our pictures is.....".

AFTER

- This book is beautifully illustrated by the author. The above activity could be repeated with any one of the illustrations in the book.

Suggested Supplemental Resources:

Click on the Kids tab of our website to find similar stories such as:

- Tadpoles to Frogs by Bobbie Kalman
- Looking Closely Around the Pond by Frank Serafini