

## The Polliwogs

We polliwoggle.  
We polliwiggle.  
We shake in lakes,  
Make wakes,

And wriggle.  
We quiver,  
We shiver,  
We jiggle,  
We jog,  
We're yearning  
To turn ourselves  
Into a frog.



## Close Read: “The Polliwogs” Note-catcher

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: “The Polliwogs” from *Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs*

How do polliwogs move? What words in the poem make you think so?

What are polliwogs?

## “Why the Frog Has a Long Tongue”

Long, long ago in a sparkling blue mountain lake, there lived a young frog named Kikker. Kikker had smooth, lime green skin. His big, black eyes were rimmed in gold and bulged pleasantly. When Kikker was happy, his eyes closed into two straight solid-gold lines, one on each side of his head. Kikker was very smart and very kind and very, very tiny. In fact, he was no bigger than your thumbnail!

Now every year, the frogs in Kikker’s lake held a big fly-catching contest. Whoever caught the most flies won. Kikker loved to watch the long-legged frogs in his lake practicing for the contest. They leapt high in the air, opened their big, wide mouths and then quickly snapped them shut, trapping a delicious fly inside! Kikker was excited because this year, he was finally old enough to enter. Oh, how he wanted to win that contest!

“I need to practice,” thought Kikker. Just then, a small fly buzzed by. Kikker hopped into the air as high as he could. He opened his not-so-big mouth and then snapped it shut. But instead of tasting a delicious fly, Kikker heard loud croaks of laughter.

“Why don’t you get some stilts, Tiny?”

“Do you need a ladder?”

“Look at those puny legs!”

Kikker dove deep under the water, embarrassed. All day long, he tried unsuccessfully to jump up and catch flies. “What can I do?” Kikker thought. “My little legs will never be able to hop as high as those bigger frogs.” All day long, Kikker tried to jump up and catch flies, but he didn’t catch a single one. He felt terribly sad. His legs were sore, and his mouth was parched from snapping open and shut. He reached his long tongue into the lake for a cool drink.

Just then Kikker had an idea—a very clever idea! He slowly swam over to a quiet part of the lake, still thinking about his wonderful idea. He knew now what he had to practice. And practice he did, day after day, working his muscles until he was strong and skilled.

Finally the day of the contest arrived. Long-legged frogs hopped everywhere, leaping and turning high in the air, opening their huge mouths and snapping them shut. It seemed like each frog jumped higher than the last. The geese kept count of how many flies each frog caught. Who would catch the most?

Over in a quiet corner of the lake sat Kikker, barely moving, every muscle still.

“Decided not to even try, Kikker? Don’t blame you—you don’t stand a chance!” croaked Old Bullfrog with a wide smirk on his face.

Just then, Kikker’s long, strong tongue shot out of his mouth, wrapped around a startled fly, and pulled it inside. Kikker did this again and again, catching more flies than all the other frogs combined, all the while barely moving a muscle! Of course, Kikker won the contest, setting the record for the most flies caught—ever!

“Hey, Kikker,” called a long-legged frog from across the lake, “that looks much easier than what we’re doing. Could you teach the rest of us how to do that?”




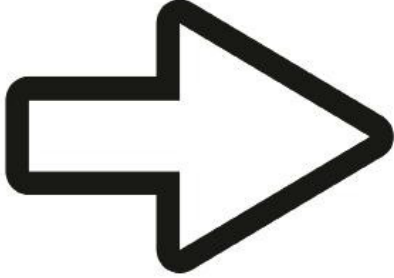
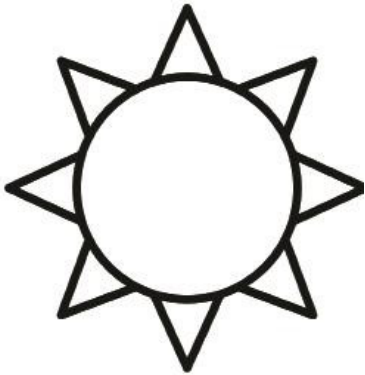

So Kikker, who never held a grudge, showed the other frogs how to do the curling and rolling exercises he had used to make his tongue long, strong, and flexible. Soon all the frogs in the lake were relaxing, catching flies almost effortlessly, with just a flick of the tongue. In the far corner of the lake, Kikker sat proudly, his eyes shut in two solid-gold lines on each side of his head, a big grin on his face.

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## Narrative Texts Handout

### Narrative Texts

- Narrative texts tell a story and entertain the reader.
- Narrative texts have a clear sequence of events that makes sense and is easy to understand. These texts have:
  - A beginning that establishes the situation and introduces the characters and/or narrator
  - A middle that describes the central problem and explains how the character(s) respond to the problem
  - An ending that has a solution/resolution to “wrap up” the problem and explains the message or purpose of the narrative
- Narrative texts can be about real events or imagined experiences.
- Narrative texts may use dialogue to show how characters react to events:
  - Example: “Help! Please help me,” he screamed.
  - The words spoken should have quotation marks around them.
  - A comma at the end inside the quotation marks before the rest of the sentence.
  - Example: Ranna thought, “How strange; it seems to be getting cooler.”
  - Thinking is internal dialogue.
  - A comma before dialogue if the sentence begins before the dialogue; a period at the end of the dialogue if that is the end of the sentence
- Narrative texts may include descriptions of what the characters are doing, thinking, and feeling.
- Narrative texts use time words and phrases to show when the events happen.

Beginning	
 <p><b>Establish the situation.</b> What is happening? Where? When?</p>	 <p><b>Introduce the characters.</b> Who are the main characters? What are they like?</p>
Middle	
 <p><b>Describe the problem.</b> What is the problem? What events are happening?</p>	 <p><b>Explain how the character(s) respond to the problem.</b> How does he/she feel? What does he/she think, say, do?</p>
End	
 <p><b>Provide a solution/resolution.</b> How is the problem solved/resolved?</p>	 <p><b>The Point.</b> What is the message/purpose of the narrative?</p>