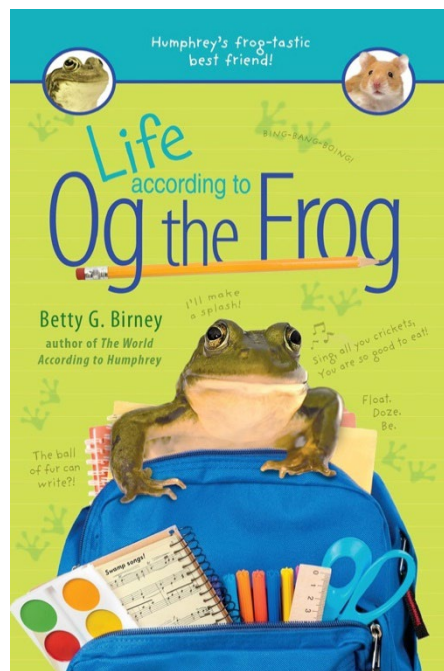
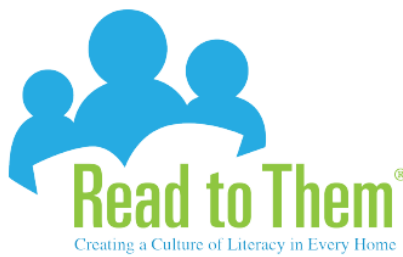


Family Fun Pack

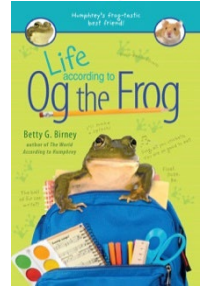


Life According to Og the Frog by Betty G. Birney



Read Aloud Tips For Families

Life According to Og the Frog by Betty G. Birney



- ✓ **Make reading time a priority** – Sit down as a family and decide on a daily reading time, and then consider it an appointment that needs to be kept. Some families might find that right before bed is the best time, but early risers might enjoy reading at breakfast. For younger listeners, bath time can be great! Build it into your daily routine and soon you will find that everyone is ready and waiting to hear what comes next in the story.
- ✓ **Show emotion that matches the story** – All of the books from **Read to Them** capture a range of emotions over the course of the story. When reading aloud, mirroring the emotions felt by the characters will make the story more meaningful to your listener.
- ✓ **Vary your rhythm** – Have fun with the language in your book. During suspenseful sections, slow down and let the suspense build. During a particularly meaningful moment, pause and let the impact settle. During emotion-packed scenes, drop your voice to a whisper. When you are reading aloud, you are performing the story. Authors don't want their stories performed in monotone!
- ✓ **Don't be afraid to be silly** – Accents, funny voices, and sound effects are all great tools to use to make reading aloud more engaging. Character-specific voices or mannerisms also help listeners follow the dialogue. It might be a challenge, but it's worth the effort to make your story come alive.
- ✓ **Stay engaged with your listener throughout your reading time** – Stop from time to time to explain an unfamiliar vocabulary word, discuss an important point, or ask your child to make a prediction. You don't want to derail the story too much, but you do want to make reading together interactive.
- ✓ **Expect some fidgeting** – Listening during reading time does not have to be a stationary activity. Some listeners will sit still as stones with eyes and ears fixed on you, and that's great. But other listeners stay more engaged with something in their hands like a small toy, some crayons, or a stuffed animal. Some children might listen better if allowed to walk around the room, or even bounce on the bed a bit. Work together to find the way that works best for your child.

Creating a culture of literacy in every home.

www.readtothem.org

@readtothem



B

Let the author know you're reading about *Og*!

 @bettybirney

 @bettygbirney

Discuss your favorite scenes.

Lurking lizards! Think of alliterative adjectives that fit each member of your family. (i.e. *Optimistic Og*)

Learn about author Betty G. Birney. What other books did she write?

Build a reading fort together!
bit.ly/readfort

I

Get your whole family to read together in your pajamas!

Do some jumping jacks!

Sing one of *Og's* swamp songs out loud together.

Make snowflakes!
bit.ly/flakefun

Tell a friend or family member why they should read this book.

N

Write a poem about *Og* or *Humphrey*. Try a haiku, acrostic, or limerick!

Get out of your house and read a chapter together "in the wild"!



Make up your own moves to Heidi and Gail's Frog Hop dance!

Learn three new facts about amphibians.

G

Correctly answer one of the Trivia Questions.

Visit Betty Birney's official *Og the Frog* web page to find more frog fun!
bit.ly/bgbotf

Play charades! Reenact a funny scene from the book without using words.

Make an origami frog or hamster!
bit.ly/paperog
bit.ly/paperhumph

Get out and enjoy a family nature walk together.

O

Make bookmarks together!

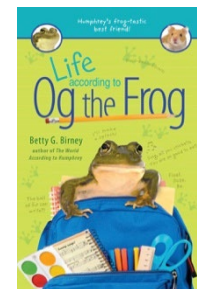
Come up with rhymes for names of people in your family.

Find a picture book about frogs at your public library or local independent book store.

Make a list of new words you discover while reading together and learn their definitions.

Share a picture of your family reading with [@readtothem](https://www.readtothem.org).





Family Fun Cards

Pages 1-54

Life According to Og the Frog by Betty G. Birney

What do you know?

Where does Og say he and his frog friends won't be moving anytime soon?

Who watches Og instead of paying attention in class?

Where did Og originally come from?

What do you think?

The students of Room 26 learn that Og was taken from his swamp. They believe Og should be returned to his friends and family, but Og's feelings are hurt as he was just starting to feel like he belonged. Do you think he should stay at school or be returned to the swamp? Or is there a better solution?

What can you do?

A Tasty Treat

"It's nice, although a little bit of muck never hurt anybody." (p. 2)

It's fun to sometimes try some of the foods that the characters in the book eat, but Og's meals from his swamp days in McKenzie's Marsh were a bit too dirty and too buggy. Instead, why not make a tastier version of a swamp dish: *mud!* Make this treat by filling a cup halfway with chocolate pudding, topping it with crushed Oreos or graham crackers, and then finishing it off with gummy worms or other gummy versions of Og's favorite critter snacks. You'll love it almost as much as Og loves crickets!





Family Fun Cards

Pages 55-102

Life According to Og the Frog by Betty G. Birney

What do you know?

What happens to cold-blooded creatures when it gets colder outside?

Who taught Og to “Float. Doze. Be.”?

According to Og, *what* can be a very cozy place to be?

What do you think?

After seeing how much Mrs. Brisbane dislikes the live crickets, Og’s diet is broadened to a number of different snacks he finds tasty. Essentially, Og and the Brisbanes come to a compromise. Have you ever had to compromise before? Describe the situation and outcome. Were you happy with the compromise?

What can you do?

Hibernation Station

“Hibernation is really just a nice, cozy nap...” (p. 97)

If Og were in the wild, he’d be hibernating for the winter. Hibernate—or just rest—with him for a while. Create a reading or snoozing nook at home complete with pillows, a blanket, and other soft, cozy items. It’s more than okay to need a break sometimes, so let everyone have a chance to find time to hibernate when they want to wind down for a bit. It doesn’t have to be for naps though—it can even be stocked with reading material to quietly enjoy. Check out the last page of this Family Fun Pack for some picture book ideas that pair well with Og.

Creating a culture of literacy in every home.

www.readtothem.org

@readtothem





Family Fun Cards

Pages 103-150

Life According to Og the Frog by Betty G. Birney

What do you know?

- Who says, “Life in the swamp isn’t easy”?
- What doesn’t happen the day after it starts snowing?
- Who adds a vote to the box after Mrs. Brisbane leaves?

What do you think?

All the students cast their vote for Og either staying or going away to Piney Woods. Even Humphrey takes an opportunity to vote by submitting a ballot. Is it important that everyone gets a vote? Why is voting so important?

What can you do?

Boing-along with Og the Frog

“I sing a hoppy frog song, I sing my song out loud.” (p. 114)

Throughout the book, Og shares songs that he writes about the swamp and his friends. At the end of the book, just after the last chapter, author Betty G. Birney explains that Og’s songs were written to be sung to familiar tunes. The first song he sings way back on Page 3 is sung to the tune of “*Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*” and his next song on Page 26 is sung to “*Home on the Range*.” Learn the lyrics and the tune for each of Og’s songs and sing them together! Then see if your family can make up your own swamp song—or a song that represents your family.





Family Fun Cards Answer Key

Life According to Og the Frog by Betty G. Birney



Pages 1-54

Where does Og say he and his frog friends won't be moving anytime soon?

The desert

Who watches Og instead of paying attention in class?

Art

Where did Og originally come from?

McKenzie's Marsh

Pages 55-102

What happens to cold-blooded creatures when it gets colder outside?

They slow down.

Who taught Og to "Float. Doze. Be."?

Uncle Chinwag

According to Og, *what* can be a very cozy place to be?

An egg

Pages 103-150

Who says, "Life in the swamp isn't easy"?

Dr. Okeke

What doesn't happen the day after it starts snowing?

No one comes to school

Who adds a vote to the box after Mrs. Brisbane leaves?

Humphrey



Connection Guide

Life According to Og the Frog by Betty G. Birney



Connect with Read to Them

Hashtags: [#ReadtoThem](#), [#1School1Book](#), [#1District1Book](#)

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, & Pinterest: [@readtothem](#)

Email: programs@readtothem.org

Website: <https://www.readtothem.org/>

Connect with author Betty G. Birney

Are you enjoying reading about Humphrey and his friends in Room 26? Tell the author!

Instagram: [@bettybirney](#)

Twitter: [@bettygbirney](#)

Website: www.bettybirney.com

Connect with the publisher, Puffin Books (an imprint of Penguin Publishing Group)

Facebook: [@puffinbooks](#), [@penguinkidsbooks](#)

Instagram: [@puffinbooksusa](#), [@penguinkids](#)

Twitter: [@puffinbooks](#), [@penguinkids](#)

Website: www.penguin.com/middle-grade

Creating a culture of literacy in every home.

www.readtothem.org

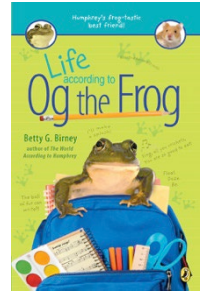
[@readtothem](#)





Next Book Connections

Life According to Og the Frog by Betty G. Birney



If you loved **Og**, here are some other books your family might enjoy reading together...

Other books written by Betty G. Birney:

- *Exploring According to Og the Frog*
- *Friendship According to Humphrey*
- *Humphrey's Really Wheely Racing Day*
- *Pie's in the Oven*
- *The Princess and the Peabodys*
- *The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs*

Picture books with similar themes:

- *The Sandwich Swap* – Queen Rania Al Abdullah
- *McToad Mows Tiny Island* – Tom Angleberger
- *Owen and Mzee* – Isabella & Craig Hatkoff
- *Snail & Worm* – Tina Kugler
- *Alfie* – Thyra Heder
- *The Frog Book* – Steven Jenkins & Robin Page
- *Good Night, Bat! Good Morning, Squirrel!* – Paul Meisel

Novels with similar themes:

- *A Boy Called Bat* – Elana K. Arnold
- *The Tiny Hero of Ferny Creek Library* – Linda Bailey
- *Dragons and Marshmallows* – Asia Citro
- *A Nest for Celeste* – Henry Cole
- *The Wind in the Willows* – Kenneth Grahame
- *Olga and the Smelly Thing from Nowhere* – Elise Gravel
- *The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse* – Bruce Hale
- *The Ballad of Tubs Marshfield* – Cara Hoffman
- *We Can't All Be Rattlesnakes* – Patrick Jennings
- *They Didn't Teach THIS in Worm School!* – Simone Lia
- *Gooney Bird Greene* – Lois Lowry
- *Harold's Tail* – John Bemelmans Marciano
- *The Prince of the Pond* – Donna Jo Napoli
- *The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester* – Barbara O'Connor
- *Gooseberry Park and the Master Plan* – Cynthia Rylant
- *The Trumpet of the Swan* – E. B. White