

Froggy Plays in the Band

by Jonathan London

Music and laughter surrounds Froggy on his latest adventure in this story rich with humor and watercolor illustrations.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Instruments make a variety of different sounds. Who can name an instrument that would be played in a band?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder where Froggy’s band is heading.

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Ask the children to try and remember as you read which animal crawled in the mitten first, second, and so on. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Froggy Plays in the Band*:

- sign: a publicly displayed structure carrying lettering or designs intended to advertise a business or product
- prize: something that is given to the winner of a contest or competition
- marching band: an ensemble of musicians that march in time to the music for entertainment at events and in parades
- compete: to be able to do as well as or better than others
- blossom: a mass of flowers appearing on a tree or bush
- parade: an organized procession of people celebrating a special occasion and often including decorated vehicles or floats, a marching band, people twirling batons, and people on horseback
- saxophone: a metal wind instrument with keys and a reed that comes in several sizes and registers and is particularly associated with jazz music
- horn: a wind instrument, usually made of brass, with a long tube whose flared end produces a sound when the player’s lips vibrate together into the mouthpiece
- drums: a musical instrument usually consisting of a membrane stretched across a hollow frame and played by striking the stretched membrane
- triangle (instrument): a musical percussion instrument that consists of a steel triangle, open at one corner, that is struck with a steel rod
- recorder (instrument): a wind instrument of the flute family that has finger holes and is blown through a whistle-shaped mouthpiece at one end
- cymbals: a circular brass percussion instrument played with a stick or in pairs by striking them together
- baton: a long stick with a knob at one or each end, carried and twirled by a drum major or majorette

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Rare Words in *Froggy Plays in the Band* continued:

- ragtag: made up of a wide-ranging mix of people or things
- marched: to walk with regular formalized movements of the arms and legs at a steady rhythmic pace, often in formation
- nervous: having a feeling of dread or apprehension
- remember: to recall something to mind or become aware of something that had been forgotten
- youngest: a person who is the least old of a group, as the youngest member of a family
- swamp: an area of land, usually fairly large, that is always wet and is overgrown with various shrubs and trees

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What did the sign say at the beginning of the book?
- What did Miss Martin say the prize for the band contest was?
- What instrument did Froggy find in the attic? Who did it belong to?
- Name the sounds the saxophone made when Froggy played it.
- Why did Froggy's dad want him to be quiet?
- What sound did the drum make? The cymbals?
- Who played the triangle? The recorder?
- What does Frogilina do to join the band?
- How often did Froggy's Ragtag Band practice?
- What are the three rules for marching?
- Why are the marchers not supposed to stop for anything?
- How many weeks did Froggy practice for the contest?
- What type of trees bloomed the day of the contest?
- Why did Froggy's band march in front?
- What was Froggy's mother trying to do while they marched?
- Why did the band stop? Why did they keep going?
- What was the special award that Froggy's Ragtag Band won?
- What shape was the trophy that Froggy's Ragtag Band also won?



Do

Music Band

You will need: various genres of instrumental music CDs, music instruments (one for each child)

After reading the story, discuss the different types of instruments used in Froggy's band and the different types of music that the children like. Play several types of music CDs. For example, big band, classical, mariachi, country, marching band, etc. Next, name each instrument that you have provided and talk about the proper way to play the instruments. Then, draw names, allowing each child to choose his/her favorite instrument. Give the children a few minutes to freely play their instrument. Next, have the children stand in a single-file line. Lead the children around the room, making sure they are staying in line. Then, have the children play their instrument while marching. Finally, go outside and march around the playground.

Additional Activity: If desired, while playing the different genres of music, have the children play along. Talk about what makes the music different, (i.e. fast, slow, loud or soft).