



The Booklist Project

Focus: Pond Life

Developed by: Ellen Jette

SPRING, 2014

Book List Project Revised

TESL 507

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This booklist is on pond life. The books chosen are nonfiction and realistic fiction picture books. These books were selected for English Language Learners in grade K-2. They are easy to comprehend text with brightly colored illustrations and photos. These text can be used to teach 1) using picture cues for comprehension, 2) letter sound correspondence, 3) sequencing, 4) connecting text to self, 5) main idea, 6) narrative text features: characters: setting, problem, solution, 7) nonfiction text features: table of contents, glossaries, indexes, labeling, diagrams, bold print,. Many of these books can be shared with the English Language Learners families as

they rely on picture cues to tell the story. Each book has a link to teaching resources including lesson plans, activities and videos.



1. **Hammersmith, C. (2012). *Life in a pond, habitats around the world:* North Mankato, M.N: Capstone Press [ISBN-10:1429671491]**

This book has beautiful photos that help the English Language Learner connect to the text. It is a nonfiction text that describes ponds and animals who live there. It uses simple sentence structure done in large bold print. The full page photos are a great visual for connecting to the text. It contains nonfiction features which can be used to introduce young readers to nonfiction text. It also has a fun fact page at the end. There is a list of other books from the set on the cover.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Emerging/Entering/Developing

Interest Level: Prek-2

Grade Level Equivalent: 2.0

Guided Reading Level: J

Lexile Measure: 420L

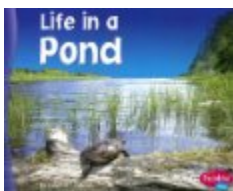
Available format: Paperback

Teacher resources

Video

<http://www.pinterest.com/nswanson/frogs/>

<http://www.pinterest.com/mrskerr106/pond/>



2. **Lindeen, C. (2004). *Life in a pond*, North Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, [ISBN-0-7368-2101-5]**

This is an informational text about pond animals and plants that grow around the pond. It can be used to introduce the young students to the format of a nonfiction text. It can help teach students how to use the features in the book. It not only supplies the reader with a glossary but

it also includes a booklist, Internet sites and index/word list. The sentences are short and written in simple language which is helpful to the English Language Learner. The book also has wonderful photos that help support the text. An on level reader should be able to read this story with little support once the vocabulary has been introduced and practiced.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Entering/ High Emerging/ Developing

Interest Level: Prek-2

Grade Level Equivalent: 1.5

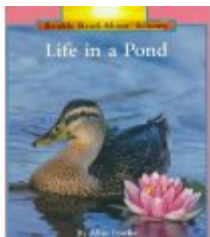
Guided Reading Level: I

Lexile Measure: 310L

Available format: Hardcover

Teacher resource

<http://www.unf.edu/uploadedFiles/aa/fie/Water%20Animals.pdf>



**3. Fowler, A. (1996). *Life in a pond*, New York, N.Y.: Children's Press, Inc.
[ISBN- 1-516-06053-8]**

This informational text gives a kid friendly definition of what a pond is. It introduces the class to the plants, insects and animals that live in and around the pond. The photos are great , they will help the English Language Learner understand the text. The print is large and the author has limited the number of sentences on each page which makes the book more inviting to an English Language Learner. There are "Words You Know" at the back of the book that could be copied and hung on the wall to use as a writing center. The book also briefly describes lakes and marshes. This information could be used with developing students to do a compare and contrast writing assignment.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Emerging/Developing

Interest Level: K-3

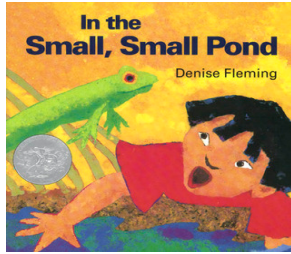
Grade Level Equivalency 3.0

Lexile Measure: 660L

Available Format: Hardcover/ Paperback/C.D.

Teacher Resource:

<http://ev002.k12.sd.us/Unit/Unit%20Homepage.htm>



4. Fleming, D. (1993). *In the small, small pond*, New York, N.Y.: Scholastic Inc. New York, New York,
[ISBN- 0-590-48119-3]

The cover of this book immediately catches your attentions. The colors are bright and bold. These colors may remind some English language Learner of picture books they may have at home that are written in their native language. The author uses these bright colors and boldly printed action words to describe the sounds and actions of the animals that live in and around the pond. This book can be used as a read aloud for Prek and k students. As you read the book all of the students will be able to see the words. This can help the English language Learner match sound to print as you read the book. It is filled with action words that you can model as you read the book. On the second reading of the book you can have the class act out the words. And don't forget the frog. He is often hidden on the pages throughout the book. Having the class try to find him will not only be fun for the students but also keep them on task.

WIDA Proficiency Level: High Emerging

Reading Proficiency: J

Grade Level: 2.0

Guided Reading Level: K

Interest Level: PreK-K

Lexile Measure: NPL

Available Format: Hardcover/Paperback

Teacher Resource:

<http://www.denisefleming.com/pages/activities-smallsmall.html>



5. Wallace N. (2011). *Pond walk*, Tarrytown: New York, Marshall Cavendish Co.
[ISBN 978-0-7614-5816-6]

This book is a realistic fantasy fiction. It can be used as a read aloud. Buddy and his mom take a walk around Pete's Pond. As they walk along mom tells Buddy about the bugs and animals that

live in and around the pond. The children can make real world connections to this story by talking about adventures they have gone on with a family member. The illustrations are engaging and done in a popout style. As Buddy discovers new animals he sketches them in his book. After reading the story to the class the students could draw pictures of their favorite pond animal from the book. Another activity could be to put the students in pairs to talk about the order of the animals and insects buddy saw. Using small groups and pairs would help to lower the English Language Learner affective filter. Once the students have completed this task you could use "Going on a Lion Hunt" as an activity but change lion hunt to pond walk. The students would be asked to name the animals and insect that Buddy saw in order. This is a fun way to engage the students and check for comprehension.

WIDA Proficiency Level: High Developing/Expanding/Bridging

Interest Level: Grade P-2

Grade Equivalent 2.4

Lexile Measure: 430

Guided Reading Level: M

Available Format Hardcover

Teacher Resource

<http://www.preschool-plan-it.com/pond-life.html>



6. Carney, E.(2009). *Frogs! national geographic readers*, Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society [ISBN-10-1426303920]

This is a nonfiction book with great illustrations and photos. This book describes frogs and their habitat. The paragraphs are short with fact boxes. Labels and questions are used throughout the book. Teachers can point these out and use them to teach about features of a nonfiction text. The book focuses on the different colors, sounds, and sizes of the frogs. The book could be used to point out that just like the frogs in the book, our world is filled with different people, languages and cultures. The book can be used as a read aloud and also used by students who are more proficiency with teacher's guidance for vocabulary and text features. Other books from this series are listed on the back cover.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Emerging - Developing

Interest Level: K-3

Grade Level Equivalency: 2.6

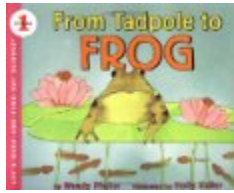
Lexile Measure: 410

Guided Reading Level: L

Available format: Paperback

Teacher Resource

<http://www.cpalms.org/Public/PreviewResource/Preview/50865>



**7. Pfeffer, W.(1994). *From tadpole to frog*, New York, N.Y. Harper Collins Publishers:
[ISBN 0-06-445123-2]**

This is a nonfiction book. The simple sentence structure will make comprehension easier for the English Language Learners. It takes the reader on a journey with the frog from season to season describing the changes it goes through as the seasons change. The students can use the picture for text support. I should caution about page 10. It describes the frogs mating as hugging. If you are uncomfortable with this you could leave this page out during your read aloud. It will not interfere with the story. I feel that the book is so well written and illustrated that it should be part of this book list. The students will enjoy learning about the different frogs at the end of the book.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing/Expanding

Interest Level: Prek-2

Grade Level Equivalency: 3.0

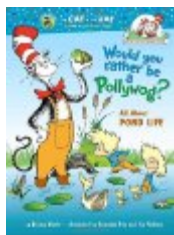
Lexile Measure: 520

Guided Reading: NA

Available Format: Paperback

Teacher Resource:

<http://hercules.gcsu.edu/~cbader/5210SPED/Guidedexample.htm>



**8. Worth, B.(2010). *Would you rather be a polliwog: All about pond life*, New York, N.Y.:
Random House Inc.
[0-375-82883-4]**

This is a realistic fantasy fiction that uses cartoon characters to give information about ponds. The Cat in the Hat takes the children on a walk around the pond as he explains explains how different plants and animals make their home in and around the ponds, as well as examining the difference between complete and incomplete metamorphosis. The book also discusses the stages of a frog's development. It is written in rhyme and uses short verses to tell about each aspect of the pond. Some of the vocabulary will need to be introduced before reading the book.

It has a glossary at the end of the book. It also includes a list of other books with grade levels for each book.

WIDA Proficiency Level: High Entering/ Developing

Interest level: K-3

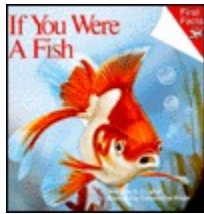
Grade Level Equivalency: 3.6

Lexile Measure: 991

Available Format: Hardcover

Teacher Resource

<http://leebennethopkinsaward.blogspot.com/2011/04/1997-great-frog-race.html>



**9. Calder, S.J.(1989). *If you were a fish*, Englewood Press, N.J.: Silver Press
[ISBN 0-671-68602-X]**

This book is a realistic fiction supplying facts about fish provided by a goldfish. It engages the students by having them imagine that the fish is talking to them. Who better to learn about a fish's characteristics, habitat and environment than from a fish itself? Many of the students have seen Finding Nemo and will relate to the colorful pictures of the main character and its environment in this story. Some students may have or had a goldfish as a pet or seen one in a pet store or aquariums. Although some of the vocabulary may need to be explained. Most of the text is uses vocabulary an English Language Learner will understand. It is a delightful story for young readers learning about fish for the first time. It is a great read aloud for English Language Learners with good picture support. The more advanced readers will be able to read this independently with some teacher support for vocabulary.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing

Interest Level: K-2

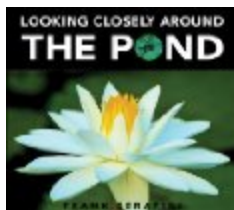
Grade Level Equivalency: NA

Guided Reading Level: A

Available Format: Hardcover

Teacher Resource

<http://www.brighthubeducation.com/preschool-lesson-plans/94436-fish-craft-game-snack-and-lesson-for-preschoolers/>



10. Serafini, F. (2009). *Looking closely around the pond*, Toronto, Canada: Kids Can Press, [1-426-30392-0]

This book describes animals and plants around the pond. It uses close up photography to engage the reader to use their prior knowledge and imagination to guess what pond animal, insect or plant the photo is. The teacher can model making good guesses by telling the class what she thinks it is and why. The students can work in pairs looking at each picture and making good guesses to share with the class. This will give the English Language Learner a chance to share their ideas in a comfortable setting. Their partner can help and encourage them to make guess. The class will enjoy the vivid photography.

WIDA Proficiency Level: Expanding/Bridging

Interest Level: Prek- 3

Grade Level: 3.0

Lexile Measure: 550

Available Format: Hardcover

Teacher Resource

<http://www.wesselmannaturesociety.org/PDF/WATER%20DANCE%20Teacher%20Guide-NEW%202013.pdf>

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



The Booklist Project

A Project of the
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



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Development
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