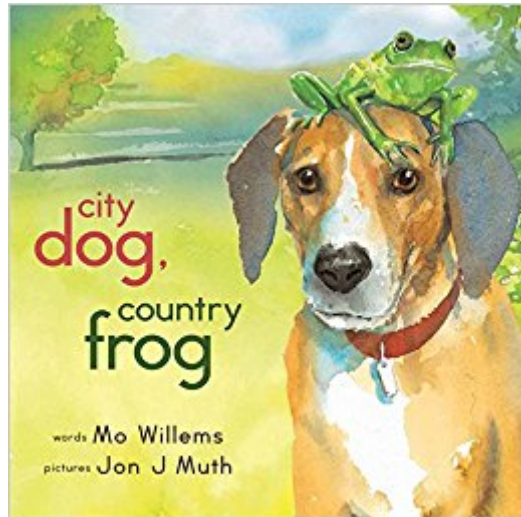




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City Dog, Country Frog



Synopsis

In spring, when City Dog runs free in the country for the first time, he spots Country Frog sitting on a rock, waiting for a friend. "You'll do," Frog says, and together they play Country Frog games. In summer, they meet again and play City Dog games. Through the seasons, whenever City Dog visits the country he runs straight for Country Frog's rock. In winter, things change for City Dog and Country Frog. Come spring, friendship blooms again, a little different this time. Mo Willems' spare, poignant text and Jon J. Muth's expressive watercolors team up to tell a story that will resonate with readers of all ages.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 490L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 64 pages

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Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 125 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,526 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in [Books > Children's Books](#)
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Age Range: 3 - 6 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, June 2010: Over the past decade, Mo Willems and Jon J. Muth have each created some of the most memorable animal stories for young readers. Working collaboratively for the first time, these award-winning authors have produced a picture book tale that is as fresh and timeless as the genre itself. City Dog, Country Mouse brings the joy of unexpected friendship and the beauty of the seasons into focus. The two seemingly incompatible animals--a free-range frog and a curious urban dog--teach young readers of the endless possibilities that unfold when we share the best of ourselves with each other. --Lauren Nemroff

Starred Review. PreSchool-Grade 2 – Spare, poignant, and ultimately upbeat, this tale depicts the natural cycle of friendship from an enthusiastic first encounter to contented companionship to the heartbreak of loss and eventual emotional renewal. Presented with a comfortingly consistent narrative structure, the events are set against the backdrop of the changing seasons, reassuring readers that winter will turn again to spring, sadness to joy. In "spring," City Dog runs free in the countryside for the first time ever and discovers an unfamiliar creature perched on a rock. Asked, "What are you doing?" Country Frog smiles and replies, "Waiting for a friend – but you'll do." The two play Country Frog games ("jumping and splashing and croaking") and when reunited in "summer," they enjoy City Dog pastimes ("sniffing and fetching and barking"). In "fall," Country Frog is tired, so the friends spend their time remembering. When City Dog arrives again in "winter," Country Frog is nowhere to be found (a wordless spread shows the pooch sitting on the rock, looking small and forlorn against a stark winterscape). In "spring again," a sad-looking City Dog befriends another critter with a familiar line, and then beams "a froggy smile" (shown in close-up, this warmly illustrated grin guarantees that Country Frog will not be forgotten). Making expert use of color and texture, Muth's expressive paintings clearly convey the tale's emotional nuances. This understated picture book allows plenty of room for young readers to interpret the animals' feelings for themselves and perhaps discuss their own emotions.

– Joy Fleishhacker, School Library Journal (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

This is a special book. As the negative reviews have expressed, it is not the "goofy" book that we have come to expect from Willems. It deals with death and loss of a dear friend. Having just lost my father, I have a tough time getting through it without choking up. For my young daughter who just lost her grandfather, all she knows is that he was there, and now he is not. The beautiful illustrations and childlike qualities of the dog make this an important book for children who have lost a family member or even a beloved pet, as well as for any other child who inevitably will lose someone special to them eventually. I am a believer in teaching our children about the ways of the world, in a gentle, caring way. This book is a beautiful example of how to do this.

I was hoping for a nice book to read with my daughters, nothing more. As we were turning the pages I started to suspect we were in the midst of something special. When we got to the scene where the dog was waiting for the frog who couldn't be there my four-year-old wanted to know why I was staring at the page for so long. Ok, she said, frog's not there - read the next page. We finished

the book, and after a moment's reflection she asked me why the frog didn't come. I really almost lost it. Wholeheartedly recommended. One of finest meditations on life, aging, and death I have ever encountered.

This is a beautifully written and illustrated book that explores the cycle of life and death as told through animals and the seasons! Not your typical Mo Willems book but excellent nonetheless.

I'm a huge fan of Jon J. Muth and Mo Willems...so this book seemed like an obvious choice to add to my children's home library. I bought it without having a clue as to the premise of the story. I just assumed I'd like it...and so I did. As did my two girls. The story itself -- about the friendship between two unlikely individuals -- is simple, even sparse at times. A few pages don't have any words at all, some only have one. But it's jam-packed with all sorts of good stuff (the nature of friendship, loss, grief, acceptance, the passage of the seasons and time, the overarching cycle of life) and is a great way to initiate deeper discussions between parents and children. When I first read this to my then four-year old, she was particularly curious about what happened to frog -- where did he go? why didn't he come back? -- and we explored the possibilities. The next time we read it, we talked about how the scene changed with the seasons. The book was such a hit in our home that we eventually donated a new copy to our preschool where it has become a much cherished story. The illustrations are pure Muth -- realistic yet whimsical. Dog and frog are incredibly expressive and the natural settings around them are a lovely compliment to the story. For parents or teachers who want to introduce some deeper topics to young children (without freaking them out too much), give this book a try.

We fell in love with Mo Williems through Gerald and Piggy but this book is quite different. A story of a dog and frog duo learning from one another. Dog visits every season and one season, frog is no longer there, but the following season dog makes a new friend. Does my 3 year old ask what happened to frog? Yes, of course. What do I tell her? Well, for now, he's moved (like a friend at school did). In the future, we could use the storyline to help cope with a death. We also use the book to learn about seasons, as well as talking about what we can teach our friends and what we can learn from our friends. Warning - I get choked up when I read this book! It's so meaningful in a variety of ways! I highly recommend this book for your own child or as a gift.

This sweet picture book tells the story of a friendship between a frog and a dog, and of its end when

the frog fails to reappear after a long winter. The dog is sad, but then takes a lesson from the frog and seeks new friendship with a chipmunk. The watercolors are lovely and emotionally evocative, and the text is spare but both lyrical and moving. It gently addresses the idea of loss without emphasizing sadness, and it presents a model of resilience and happy remembrance. I was initially worried that my daughter would be distressed that the frog disappears, but instead she finds the dog's "froggy smile" hilarious, and seems content with the ending, in which the dog befriends a chipmunk.

I found this book at our local library and we all became big Mo Willems fans. But after returning it to the library, I missed it more than my kids! So I came to and bought a copy - nominally for my kids, but in truth, more for myself. Absolutely love this book. Deep in meaning and very thoughtful, with incredible art. Highly recommended.

This book is so touching and so beautifully written. It is much MORE than a book about death. I don't see it that way at all. It is about the friendship of two seemingly opposite creatures and how they shared so much and forged a special bond. Then, as in life, change occurs. This is about holding a part of that friendship and love inside yourself for all eternity, never forgetting that special connection. Becoming better for having had that relationship. It is also about being able to release and let go and, in honor of that friendship, being able to move on. Life is about change and letting a child, or an adult for that matter, know it is ok to move on with life after loss occurs is a lesson we all need to remember and carry with us to live a full life.

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