



Herb and Lois Walker's
SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

Frogs Matter!

**A Readers Theater Script
Exploring Ways to Help
Save Our Amphibians**

By Lois Walker

Intermediate/Advanced
Readers

www.scriptsforschools.com

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NOTE: Please go online to find more ways you might help and information about "The Year of the Frog" and the "Amphibian Ark" at:

<http://www.amphibianark.org/yearofthefrog.htm>

READERS THEATER FORMATTING: 5 SOLO READERS, READERS 2,3,4,5, and ALL.

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM:

To find the proper beat or rhythm for the poetry sections of this script, first read-aloud and clap through the poem sections as you go. Each *underlined word or word part or pause* falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word or pause, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout the reading during performance. Once your readers feel comfortable with the beat and pace, it's time to interpret, improvise, experiment, and have fun with the piece.

ALL (Except Reader 1):

(Spoken in unison)

Frogs matter! (pause)

And they're in trouble. (pause)

They need our help, and need it on the
double. (pause)

Amphibians are threatened and their
lives may end in rubble.

- READER 1: Wait! Stop the reading. I need a little information before we carry on. First question: What in the world is an AMPHIBIAN!
- READER 2: Amphibians are animals that live part of their lives in water and part of their lives on land.
- READER 3: They're really neat! What other animals do you know of who don't look like their parents when they're born?
- READER 1: Well, I don't know. I've never thought about it.
- READER 4: Think about it! Young amphibians start out life looking something like a little worm.
- READER 2: They're called larvae.
- READER 4: That's right. Larvae! And as they grow, they go through a metamorphosis. They change in just about every way you could imagine.

READER 5: That's one of the reasons frogs matter so much. They're really neat creatures and lots of fun to watch.

READER 2: A frog *starts out* as a tadpole, has a tail, swims under water, and breaths through gills.

READER 3: But as it gets older, it develops lungs, legs, and a whole different mouth.

READER 4: Then its eyes change position and it loses its tail!

READER 5: So now its an adult frog and spends most of its time hopping on land instead of swimming in water like a fish.

READER 1: So Kermit the Frog is an amphibian. No wonder he says "It ain't easy bein' green!"

Hey, that reminds me of a frog joke:
What does a frog wear on St. Patrick's Day?

READERS 2,3,4,5: **Nothing!**

READER 1: Right, right...

READER 2: Yes, Kermit is one kind of amphibian, but he's not the *only* kind, and all amphibians aren't necessarily green.

READER 1: Help!

READER 3: Well, there are over 5,000 species of amphibians and three main groups.

READER 1: Let's stick with Kermit.

READER 4: OK. Kermit would be from the "Frog and Toad Group".

READER 1: And you're saying the Frog and Toad Group is in trouble?

READER 5: Yes, along with all the other amphibians.

READER 1: Got it! Let's hear that poem again. Maybe it will make more sense now...

ALL (Except R 1): *(Spoken in unison)*

Frogs matter! (pause)

And they're in trouble. (pause)

They need our help, and need it on the double. (pause)

Amphibians are threatened and their lives may end in rubble.

READER 1: This frog and toad thing reminds me of another joke: What kind of shoes do frogs wear?

READERS 2,3,4,5: **Open toad!**

READER 1: Right, right... OK, I now know what amphibians are, but haven't a clue what kind of trouble they've gotten themselves into.

READER 2: They're disappearing, that's the trouble. You can't blame it on *them*, though.

READER 3: Amphibians have been on this earth for over 360 million years. They lived at the same time as the dinosaurs. The dinosaurs didn't survive, but the amphibians *did*.

READER 1: The dinosaurs disappeared. So, now are amphibians going to disappear too?

REAER 4: We hope not, but they're fighting an uphill battle.