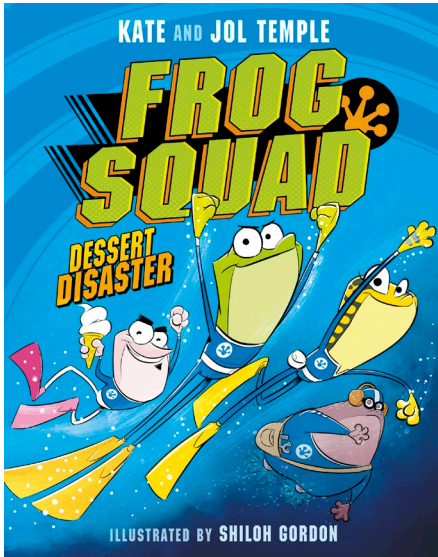


Classroom Resources



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Frog Squad (Book 1): Desert Disaster

Kate Temple, Jol Temple and Shiloh Gordon

BOOK SUMMARY

Step into a top-secret world where frogs don't just eat flies, they eat danger! This is FROG SQUAD!

Frog Squad comes to the rescue of a mega tanker in distress – and it's full of ice-cream! Will these brave rescue frogs be fast enough to stop Professor Cain and The Organisation of Amphibious Devious Scoundrels (TOADS) from controlling the global supply of ice-cream?

Streaming now on Frogflix!

KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- AC9E2LA08
- AC9E2LY01
- AC9E3LA05
- AC9E3LE03

THEMES

- Natural World
- Sustainability
- Belonging
- Humour

Recommended Reading Ages: 6+

Resources Created For: Lower & Middle Primary

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Before Reading

1. Look at the cover and, as a class or in small groups, have a discussion about what the story inside may be about.
 - a) Notice that one of the frogs is holding an ice-cream and part of the book's title is 'Dessert Disaster'. What might this tell readers?
2. It appears that at least three people have contributed to creating this book. Kate and Jol Temple's names are at the top of the cover. Who might they be?
3. We know that Shiloh Gordon is the illustrator as it says so on the bottom of the cover. What does an illustrator do?

During Reading

1. What happens if you are 'granted access' to something? (p. 6)
2. What do you think it means to be a big dog/big frog? (pp. 10 & 11)
3. What happens to enemies of Captain Tony Rowley if they get the frog's toxin on their skin? (p. 12)
 - a) Extension question: Does this happen in real life if someone comes into contact with the skin of a green tree frog?
4. Why do the frogs need to wear wetsuits? (pp. 14 & 15)
5. When and where did Nelson lose his legs? (p. 16)
6. What are two facts about Sergeant Nelson Hewitt (the character)? (pp. 18 & 19)
7. What did you learn about black rain frogs (the species) by reading the profile on p. 18?
8. Agent Quito Gonzalez is an Ecuadorean glass frog. What are three special things about this type of frog? (pp. 28 & 29)
 - a) Extension question: Where is Ecuador?
9. Where did Nelson's lunch go? (pp. 30 & 31)
10. Dr Jilly Gilly has two important jobs in Frog Squad. What are they? Do you know what is involved with each job? (pp. 35 & 36)
 - a) Extension question: Where do corroboree frogs live?
11. Who is Professor Buford Cain? (pp. 49 & 50)
 - a) Extension question: Frogs and toads are both amphibians but differ in where they can live, what they need to survive and how they can hurt humans. Can you explain some of the differences? You may like to use this website as a starting point: <https://australian.museum/blog-archive/science/frogs-and-toads/>
12. What is dangerous about a spill or slick in the ocean? (pp. 61, 89 & 118)
 - a) What problems can it cause for the sea and the creatures who live there?
13. What has happened to the tanker? (p. 133)
 - a) What does 'beached' mean?

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Language

1. Many verbs are used in the story to tell us about the action taking place. Find at least five verbs used in *Dessert Disaster* and put them into your own sentences. (e.g. abseiled, hijacked, clogged, captured, spilled, controlled)
2. The words from the novel listed below are nouns. Turn them into verbs, adverbs or adjectives by adding a different ending (suffix) to them.
 - a) spill
 - b) disaster
 - c) distress
 - d) control
 - e) water
 - f) plan
3. *Frog Squad: Dessert Disaster* takes lots of 'normal' words and turns them into 'froggy' vocabulary. Can you think of the original word or phrase for these froggy terms:
 - a) hoppy
 - b) R&R (ribbeting and recreation)
 - c) coHOPeration
 - d) Croaka-Cola
 - e) hoperation
 - f) frogrance
 - g) FrogTube
 - h) helifrogter
 - i) hoperational
 - j) froget
 - k) toadal
 - l) Justin Froggielake
 - m) spawn chips

Answers for 'froggy' terms: happy, R and R (rest and recreation), cooperation, Coca-Cola (brand of soft drink), operation, fragrance, YouTube (social-media video channel), helicopter, operational, forget, total, Justin Timberlake, corn chips
4. On page 60, the dessert disaster is described as 'a sticky situation', which can mean more than one thing. It is a sticky mess because there is melted ice-cream everywhere, but what's the other meaning of sticky situation that applies in this part of the story?

Illustrations

1. What differences and similarities has the illustrator given the frogs to make them all look like part of a team (Frog Squad) but also each have their own individual character? Students may like to capture this information on a graphic organiser such as a Venn diagram.
 - a) The reader is given information about the frog species that each member of Frog Squad belongs to. How are some of the characteristics of these species conveyed in the novel?

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2. On pages 68 and 69, and other pages in the book, the illustrations appear in black boxes. This is sometimes referred to as comic-strip layout (a sequence of drawings in boxes that combine to tell a story). As a class discuss:
 - a) Have you read comic strips before?
 - b) Do the other comics you have read also feature words in speech bubbles?
 - c) What makes a comic strip different from an illustration? (*Frog Squad: Dessert Disaster* provides examples of both for students to compare.)
 - d) How do you 'read' a comic strip? Think about order, placement, speech, sound effects, etc.
 - e) Can you draw a comic strip about another team of animal heroes?
3. On the pages where there is hardly any text (e.g. pp 92 & 93), how do the illustrations tell readers what is happening?

Media Literacy

1. This book is a little different to other narrative texts you may have read as it is presented as a TV program about a group of special frogs. What elements (words or pictures) in the story tell us the book is about the making of a TV show?
2. Do the books you read normally have commercial/ad breaks like on pages 24 and 25, 54 and 55, and 82 and 83?
 - a) What is interesting about how the commercials are displayed on the pages?
 - b) What does it remind you of?
 - c) Why do you think the creators of this book have included ad breaks, which are usually only seen on commercial TV?
3. The ad for Warts 'n' All cleanser on pages 82 and 83 has a female frog as its spokesperson.
 - a) How are readers shown the frog is female?
 - b) Why has a female been chosen to sell this product?
 - c) In the world of frogs, warts are desirable, unlike in the human world. Why is this funny?
 - d) What stereotypes that exist in the real world are the creators trying to get us to think about and what do you think they're trying to say about them?
4. On page 136, Nelson says he'd like to have a Dr Flipper rather than a Croaka-Cola, but Tony says that he can only have a Croaka-Cola as they're a sponsor of the TV show being made about Frog Squad. In pairs or small groups discuss:
 - a) What does this tell us about the influence that sponsors can have on 'reality' TV shows?
 - b) How might sponsorship requirements change the 'real' world or lives of the people who are depicted in reality TV shows (think about what Nelson would actually like to drink)?
 - c) Does the influence of sponsorship on the lives of reality TV participants matter? You might like to think about:
 - (i) How Tony from Frog Squad initially presents drinking Croaka-Cola – as if it's his own choice because it's his preferred drink.
 - (ii) Product sponsorships are not generally as obvious as paid advertisements as they become a part of the TV show.

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- d) What is another product (real or frog-world specific) that you think the Frog Squad could promote in the next book? Write and illustrate a scene where this product is integrated into the Frog Squad TV show.

After Reading

Activities

1. You have been asked to include a new member of Frog Squad...Who do you include? Think about:
 - What new skills and talents might Frog Squad benefit from?
 - Is there a species of frog that you think is missing, or that has some characteristics that might work well with other members of the group?
 - What do they look like?
 - What's their name?
 - What job do they have?

a) Create a profile for your new character like the ones introducing the various members of Frog Squad in the book.
2. *Frog Squad: Dessert Disaster* is told from the point of view of the person/animal narrating the TV show. Rewrite one part of it to be from one of the characters' points of view instead.
3. What's next for Frog Squad? This is book one in a series and at the end of it we're told the next adventure for the frogs includes poisonous darts! In small groups, brainstorm what may happen in the next book and some other adventures Frog Squad may have in other books in the series.
4. Choose your favourite character from Frog Squad and write a story about them. It could be about how they joined the squad, or what they do in their spare time or on holiday.
5. On page 78, Dr Jilly tells the squad that 'The Indian Ocean is about 22 degrees Celsius'. What does this mean?
 - a) Are all oceans the same temperature?
 - b) What's currently happening to the temperature of our oceans that has scientists worried?
 - c) Draw a map with all the major oceans of the world and their average temperatures.
6. Have you ever heard of a real-life oil slick, or spill of some type, in the ocean?
 - a) What happened?
 - b) Who was responsible for the accident and who helped fix or clean it?
 - c) Work with a partner to create a presentation (you may like to use PowerPoint or a similar program) about it to share with the rest of the class.

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About the Authors and Illustrator

Kate and Jol Temple are the internationally awarded authors of more than 26 books for children. Their work has been translated into over 20 languages. They write picture books (including the smash-hit series Bin Chicken) as well as bestselling junior fiction. Kate also writes her own middle-grade dark fantasy series. Their work is hilarious, playful, outrageous and full of heart. Kate and Jol live in Sydney. When they are not writing books, they love getting out to schools and festivals and talking to kids about the pleasure of reading and inspiring the next generation of young writers.

Shiloh Gordon is the illustrator of the popular junior fiction series The Underdogs and Ratbags. He has a passion for creating lively, engaging illustrations that are full of character, story and fun. Shiloh graduated with a BA in animation from the Queensland College of Art and has worked as a professional illustrator for over 20 years. He lives in Brisbane with his wife and three kids, who are an endless source of fun and inspiration.

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