



# LITTLE QUACK'S NEW FRIEND

AUTHOR: LAUREN THOMPSON

ILLUSTRATOR: DEREK ANDERSON

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Little Quack's New Friend](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Little Quack and his four visually distinct siblings discover a frog, Little Ribbit, in their pond. He wants to play. While the other ducklings are wary of him at first - he's too little, too green, and a FROG! Little Quack has no such hesitations, and is determined to make a new friend, no matter how different he may be. *Quack, quack, ribbit, ribbit!* Off they go. As it turns out, the frog's sense of fun perfectly matches that of the ducks. He loves to splash, squish in the mud, bounce on a log, and dunk in the water. As their play moves from one activity to the next, the other ducklings join in the fun one by one. ([Amazon.com – School Library Journal review](#))

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For some time she worked as a children's book editor, so she had a chance to read many children's books and talk with many authors. "I wrote steadily for about 7 years before I wrote anything strong enough to be published." She says, "I like to write about the way I remember responding to special times when I was a child. Those special times include holidays, but also big moments like jumping into the pool even though I was afraid to, or the sparkling magic of a starlit winter night. I find ideas everywhere in my daily life, but the ideas that matter most to me for my books are ones that remind me of something special in my childhood." Her advice for children is to read a lot to absorb different ways of telling stories, grow your vocabulary and write a lot (diary, journal, stories, things that are important to you.) "You don't have to show anyone your writing unless you want to." ([laurenthompson.net](#))

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Derek Anderson was born and raised in Ames, Iowa. He is the award-winning illustrator of the bestselling "Little Quack" books by Lauren Thompson and "Hot Rod Hamster" by Cynthia Lord. Anderson said that the very first picture he can remember drawing was when he was in kindergarten. It was a picture of the Easter Bunny. When he finished it, Derek took it down to the office and presented it to the principal of his school who hung it on the wall of his office for the rest of the school year. From then on, he knew he was going to be an artist. Derek's fate was sealed. When he reached second grade, he wrote his very first story and he's never stopped writing or drawing since. ([derekanderson.net](#))

## LITTLE QUACK'S NEW FRIEND

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Friendship
- Diversity
- Counting
- Action words

### *Tips for every book!*

### POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

### DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"Why do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

### BEFORE READING

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**Possible new vocabulary:** pond, reeds, dunk, lily pads

*Use these questions before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:*

- As you feel appropriate, introduce author, illustrator, title, front, back, spine, jacket
- Can you count the number of words in the title with me?
- Does anyone recognize any of the letters in the title? Point out the first letters of each word and sound them out with the children joining in.
- I wonder who will be Little Quack's new friend?
- Where do you think these animals live? Why do you think so?
- Do you think this story will be about real animals or pretend animals; why? Let's find out...

### DURING THE STORY

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*Use these questions while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.*

- (As ducklings are introduced) Do you notice something different about all the ducklings?
- I wonder how the ducks and frog got their names?
- (p.6) Why do you think most of the ducklings didn't want to play with Little Ribbit?
- What did Little Quack think about playing with Little Ribbit?
- (As Little Quack and Little Ribbit go off to play) What do you think might happen next?
- Why did the other ducklings change their minds about playing with the Little Ribbit?
- I notice some interesting expressions on the ducks' faces who aren't quite ready to join Little Quack and Ribbit, how do you think they are feeling?

### AFTER READING

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*Use these questions while after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.*

- In the story what did the ducks learn about making new friends?
- What makes a character like Little Ribbit a good friend? Why do you think so? So it's ok to have friends who are different from you?
- How do you think the ducks felt at first and then at the end of the story?
- How did this story make you feel?

### BRING BOOK TO LIFE

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- What was your favorite part of the book?
- Have you ever worried about making new friends?
- What can you do to make new friends?
- What did you decide - Was this a make-believe story? Or, was the story true?

### COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- Try doing actions that illustrate the funny new words in the text (splash/splishy, sploshy; squish/squashy, squooshy; bounce/boingo, poingo; dunk/plunka, splunka).
- When each duck joins in the fun encourage the children to count with you the number of ducks on the page.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

*Use these questions while after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.*

- Song: "Five Little Ducks Went Out/Swimming One Day" – lots of examples of various tunes on Youtube.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc0qnHY9tol>