The Toad: Disgusting Critters by Elise Gravel

Classroom Activities

- **Life Science Writing Prompt:**
  - **As a class:** Discuss animal adaptations, and brainstorm all of the special characteristics and traits of the toad that are found in the text. Make a two column chart of these traits similar to that on the Thinksheet, recording the trait on the left column and its purpose on the right column.
  - **Students reflect and write:** Have students write 3-5 sentences responding to the writing prompt, “What are a toad’s special traits, and for what purpose does a toad use them?”
  - **Research Project:** Have each student research their favorite animal to learn and record important facts about the animal: its description, characteristics or traits, habitat, how it lives, eats, and reproduces, etc.
  - **Individual Presentations:** Offer a variety of ways students may share their research project with the class: orally, in the form of a powerpoint slide or blog page, or written and illustrated for display in the classroom.
  - Be sure to have each student include information on why or how the favorite animal was chosen.

- **Additional Resources and Virtual Links:**
  - **Hear and See this Book Read Aloud on YouTube:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=gTxY8l3og7Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=gTxY8l3og7Y)
  - **Classic, Award Winning Children’s Literature Read Alouds:**
    - Frog & Toad Are Friends, by Arnold Lobel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4p9WXKq1vYk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4p9WXKq1vYk)
    - Frog & Toad Together, by Arnold Lobel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEAMxIOe0Z4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEAMxIOe0Z4)
  - **Watch and Learn:**
    - **Explore the Wildlife Kingdom:** Watch baby toads hatch out off their mom’s back [https://youtu.be/-lf3JZw3OMY](https://youtu.be/-lf3JZw3OMY)

These resources were prepared by GELF’s Educator Advisory Council, a group of 28 Tennessee educators, to encourage engagement with the K-3 Home Library books distributed to students over the summer. Access more resources at [BookersBookClub.org/Activities](http://BookersBookClub.org/Activities)
YouTube for Kids: What is an Amphibian?
National Geographic Kids: Amphibians
Kids Konnect: Frog Facts & Worksheets
San Diego Zoo Kids: Fantastic Frogs
Earth Rangers: Top Ten Awesome Facts About Frogs
CBC Kids: Frog or toad – think you can tell the difference?
San Diego Zoo Kids: Poison Frogs