

City Dog, Country Frog

First Reading: Illustrations

This book follows the seasons. As you examine the beautiful paintings by Jon Muth, you'll be looking for clues about the story line and about the four seasons.

The book starts with spring and ends the next spring. The season affects what is happening in the plot.

*When numbering the pages, page 1 says: Spring.

*Keep story time between 15 – 20 minutes.

Pages 1 - 11: Spring

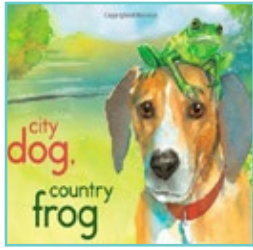
Look at this section of illustrations.

- What do you know about spring?
- On page 5, do you think the two characters are friends? How can you tell? It's an unlikely friendship, isn't it. Most dogs might chase and try to catch a frog.
- What is the setting of the story? How can you tell?
- Do you think the dog and the frog would be friends if the setting of the story were the city? Why, or why not?

Pages 13 - 23: Summer

Look at this set of illustrations.

- How can you tell that it's summer?
- Some parts of the story seem true-to-life. What are they? (summer: dogs running and playing, frogs in a pond)
- What parts seem make-believe? (frog throwing the stick, frog holding a leaf to protect dog from the rain)



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Pages 25 - 33: Fall

Look at this set of illustrations.

- What do you know about fall? (leaves change colors and fall, temperatures are colder)
- On page 31, look at the clouds. What do you see? What might the dog and the frog be thinking?
- On page 33, how do you think the frog might be feeling? What makes you think that?

Page 35 - 45: Winter

Look at this set of illustrations.

- What changes happen in the country during the winter?
- On page 39, what do you think could be happening on this page?
- On pages 41 - 45, how does the dog seem to be feeling? (sad, lonely, disappointed) Why might he be feeling this way?

Pages 47 - 55: Spring Again

Look at this set of illustrations.

- Now that it's spring again, how has the country changed?
- On page 51, how does the dog seem to be feeling? (sad, lonely) Why?
- On pages 53 - 55, how does he seem to be feeling? (happy, pleased) What might have caused his feelings to change?
- Talk about what could have happened to the frog.