



City Dog, Country Frog

by Mo Willems

City Dog, Country Frog is a book written by another of Practickle's favorite authors. Mo Willems wrote *Knuffle Bunny*, a story about a child's attachment to a stuffed animal. The attachment that anchors the plot in this book is between two animals that form an unlikely friendship. Through the friendship of the dog and the frog, Mr. Willems explains that friends can be very different from each other. Tie these examples to real friends in your child's life. *City Dog, Country Frog* is a perfect follow-up to Nic Bishop's *Frogs*. Your child and you can use the information from *Frogs* to explain the behavior of Country Frog.

Enjoy a video of Mr. Willems introducing us to his dog and explaining how he got the idea for the book at www.youtube.com. Search: *City Dog, Country Frog*.

The illustrations in *City Dog, Country Frog* are exquisite watercolors by the talented Jon J. Muth. Mr. Muth's sensitive paintings show the changing of the seasons that is very important to the plot. (I became acquainted with Mr. Muth's work in a beautiful poetry anthology, Caroline Kennedy's *A Family of Poems: My Favorite Poetry for Children*. My grandchildren and I have loved not only reading the poems, but enjoying the beautiful paintings that illuminate the pages.)

During the First and Second Readings, your listener and you will discuss the changes that the seasons bring into the animals' lives through both the illustrations and the text. The Reading Comprehension Best Practice that works well with this story is **Graphic Organizers**. The changes that happen during each season can be put in a **graphic organizer** as you will see in the Third Reading to provide a visual organizer of the key information. The information from this simple text can be combined with the listener's knowledge of seasonal changes.

At the end, your listener may ask you, "Where is Frog?" Each of us will answer that in our own way.