

Three Dancing Frogs



Teaching Notes



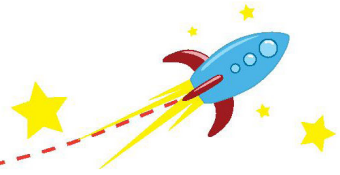


Three Dancing Frogs

Written by Leigh Hardingham

Illustrated by Patrick Shirvington

Published by New Frontier Publishing



THE STORY

Get lost in a mesmerising bushland performance.

This dramatic ballet is sure to be met with thunderous applause.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Leigh is a singer-song writer with Melbourne based band Royston Vasey and a passion for the environment and the natural world. After 15 years navigating the world of music, both in Australia and overseas, he has merged his passions through writing children's stories that evoke the magic of creativity and connection to the Australian Bush.

Residing on the NSW Central Coast with his partner and two children, Leigh finds his new audience broadens his path towards lyrical and poetic expression. Leigh has teamed up with Australian artist/illustrator Patrick Shirvington, collaborating on projects that intertwine the Bush, the Arts and Education.

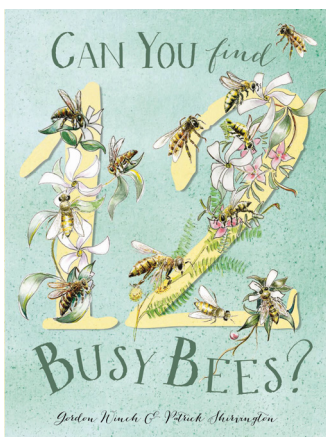
ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Patrick Shirvington was born in Sydney. His childhood was spent immersed in nature, drawing the bushland subjects that were bountiful near his home. He studied accountancy, but found himself to be a square peg in a round hole, so decided to travel and follow his passion for art.

Patrick built a house and studio in the bushland of northern Sydney with his wife and children and continues to paint professionally. He has a number of awards behind him, including selection in the prestigious Archibald prize, as well as work displayed in public galleries throughout the world.

Apart from his main artistic profession, Patrick added his illustrations to tee shirts, council banners and environmental journals along the way. His love of drawing and the environment has led to a collaboration with well-known children's author, Dr Gordon Winch, culminating in his first book *Can You Find Me?*

ANOTHER BOOK BY PATRICK SHIRVINGTON



Can You Find 12 Busy Bees?

Written by Gordon Winch

Illustrated by Patrick Shirvington

Published by New Frontier Publishing

Discussion Topics and Activities

Discussion Topics

1. Show the children the front cover of the book and ask them if they can read the title. Knowing the title and looking at the front cover, can they guess what the story might be about?
2. After finishing the story ask the children what they thought about *Three Dancing Frogs*. What was their favourite part of the story and why? What do they think about the illustrations?
3. Have the children seen any of the animals, birds or insects from *Three Dancing Frogs* in real life?
4. Ask the children what they think of music and dance. Do any of them sing, or play an instrument or dance?
5. Do they take music and dance lessons in school? Ask if they enjoy these lessons and what specifically they like about them?
6. Have they ever performed for an audience before? If they have, how did they feel about performing?
7. Have the children heard the noises of the animals and birds in the story? Do they think that these sounds are music in their own right?

Activities

Activity 1 Word Search

Can you find all the animals hidden in the word search?

Activity 2 Animal Research Report

Choose an Australian animal and fill in the animal research report. Exchange reports with your friends to learn about all kinds of fascinating animals.

Activity 3 Draw Your Own Dancing Frogs

In the space provided, draw your own version of the three dancing frogs.

Activity 4 Nature Collage

Create a collage using petals, twigs, leaves and anything else you can find outdoors. This is a great way to promote creativity and encourage children to engage with nature.



Word Search

There are five animals hidden in the word search below. Can you find all of them?

Find these hidden animals:

FROG

WOMBAT

POSSUM

BILBY

OWL

L	G	N	J	H	W	P
W	J	O	H	F	O	T
O	M	U	R	S	M	M
U	C	C	S	F	B	J
X	L	U	C	M	A	M
H	M	A	K	T	T	T
E	Q	Y	B	L	I	B



Animal Research Report

You've seen some of Australia's unique wildlife in *Three Dancing Frogs*. To learn more about these animals, do some research and fill in the report below. Choose an Australian animal and focus on them for your report. You can choose an animal that you've seen in the story or look at this website for some additional ideas.

<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/animals-in-australia.html>

Swap reports with your classmates to learn about lots of different animals!

Animal Name: _____

This animal is an/a:

amphibian reptile fish bird mammal

Draw the Animal



Size:

Colour:

What it eats:

Where it lives:

Predators:

Two interesting facts about the animal

1.

2.

Draw the Animal's Habitat



Draw Your Own Dancing Frogs

Draw your own rendition of the dancing frogs below. They could be ballet dancers like in the story or you could choose another dance form if you'd like! Or perhaps you'd like to draw them playing instruments or singing?



Nature Collage

Using leaves, twigs, petals or anything else you can find outdoors, fill in the picture below. Glue your items down in any pattern you like. (If you can't get items outdoors you can also cut out shapes from different kinds of craft paper.)

