

POLLIWOG by Tammy Carter Bronson

To create Accelerated Reader (AR) Test...

370 words / Level 2.7

- 1) Who is Polliwog's best friend?
A) Perch C) Frog
B) Tadpole D) Dragonfly

- 2) When Polliwog was a tadpole, what was her favorite game?
A) swim away C) jumping with frogs
B) hide-and-seek D) swimming with frogs

- 3) One day Polliwog sprouted tiny...
A) legs C) bubbles
B) gills D) tadpoles

- 4) Polliwog is afraid to breathe...
A) water C) air
B) bubbles D) with her gills

- 5) When it is time for Polliwog to leave the pond, she hides behind...
A) the bubbles C) the weeds
B) frogs D) Perch

- 6) What did Polliwog change into?
A) snail C) perch
B) dragonfly D) frog

A Teacher's Guide to

POLLIWOG

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Published by:
Bookaroos Publishing, Inc.
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Available to Libraries through:
Baker and Taylor Books,
Follett Library Resources,
& Quality Books, Inc.

ISBN 0-9678167-4-2
Hardcover, \$17.00, April 2004
Bilingual (English/Spanish)

ANSWERS: 1- A, 2- B, 3- A, 4- C, 5- C, 6- D

SYNOPSIS

Polliwog doesn't want her life to change, but her transformation forces her to enter an unknown world outside the pond where she adapts to her new life as a frog.

THEMES

The dominant theme is FEAR of change. Polliwog is afraid to leave her home. She is afraid to breathe air. She is afraid she will never see Perch again. But Polliwog is BRAVE. She leaves the water and accepts her new life outside the pond. She learns that her fear was unnecessary. Polliwog does see Perch again. Now she will try to TEACH other tadpoles that they have nothing to fear!

CHARACTERS

The **HERO** is the main character. (Polliwog)

The **TEACHER** character is a mentor to the hero. The Teacher is a wise and positive figure who aids or trains the hero on their journey. Not every story will have a Teacher (for example, *The Ugly Duckling*). The difference between a Teacher and Helper is the Teacher contributes more to the Hero's understanding of their journey or goal. (Perch)

HELPER characters assist the hero on their journey or 'help' the hero achieve their goal. (Frogs)

TROUBLEMAKERS are opposed to the hero's goal, or they are an obstacle for the Hero to overcome. In this story Polliwog thinks the frogs are troublemakers, but they are trying to play with her and help her. They know she is a frog, too! The frogs are not troublemakers. They are helpers. This is a good example of POINT-OF-VIEW.

PLOT

Polliwog is written as a Circle Story to reflect the life cycle of a frog. In the end the story begins anew with a tadpole looking quizzically at a "pesky frog" (Polliwog grown up).

BEGINNING (ACT I)		
Big PROBLEM	Bigger PROBLEM	Biggest PROBLEM
Perch says Polliwog will leave the pond one day.	Polliwog is changing. She grows tiny legs.	Polliwog can no longer breathe with gills.

In the beginning of the story, Polliwog is afraid to leave the Teacher Character (her mentor/friend, Perch).

MIDDLE (ACT II)		
SOLUTION	NEW PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Polliwog leaves pond.	Polliwog is alone outside the pond.	Polliwog makes new friends- the frogs!

Polliwog finds new friends (Helper Characters, Frogs).

END (ACT III)		
NEW LIFE	CLIMAX	END
Frogs teach Polliwog to eat, play, & swim.	Polliwog goes back into pond and sees Perch!	Polliwog wants to play with tadpole.

Now that Polliwog is grown up, she understands and appreciates Perch's wisdom. Now Polliwog will be a Helper Character to the next generation of tadpoles. The story repeats with new tadpole(s) as Perch's friend(s)...