

# FRANCOIS

## *The Dashing Croaker*

Written by Megan Conner Illustrated by J.R. Craig





François the Dashing Croaker

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# FRANÇOIS

*The Dashing Croaker*

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# François The Dashing Croaker



1 “Bonjour...”

2 “Ahem, Bonjour...”

3 “HELLLOOOO!”

4 Oui, that’s it, down here. Yes, down further, further... next to your feet.

5 Ah, here I am. Oui, I am a frog.  
My name is François.

You are surprised, no? You did not expect to find a friend down here. You should not be surprised. We frogs are amazing creatures.

Here let me tell you a story, a story of triumph, of courage, and most importantly... of love!



8 My story began about 16 weeks ago when my mother met my father. It was as for many here in France, the land of love. They met, fell in love, and soon after, my siblings and I were a cluster of little tiny eggs. My mother put us in the calm waters of this very pond.

9 She watched over us day and night. While she waited, the yolks of our eggs split over 6 times until there was a small chain within each egg. At the end of 21 days, we hatched out of our eggs.

10 When I slid out of my egg and into that water, a thrill shot through my tiny tadpole body. Life! I knew at that moment I was destined for greatness!

11 For the first 10 days, I stayed pretty close to my mother and siblings. I suppose it is like that with humans when they are first born. Then before I knew it, I was off swimming through the waters of the pond. There were so many good things to eat and so many new friends to meet.



## François the Dashing Croaker (continued)

12 I was close to the end of my fourth week as a tadpole when my life changed forever. There I was, swimming by the algae pool. I looked up and saw her – Mademoiselle Ami! She was sitting on a lily pad just above me singing the most beautiful song.

13 I knew I was only a tadpole now but soon I would be the most dashing frog to hop into her life. My job

became clear. Grow as big and strong as I could so when the day came, I would be ready!

So I carried on. After about 9 weeks, 14 my arms and legs had sprouted and I looked like a tiny frog with a really long tail. I started to eat insects and plants to build up my strength. And by 12 weeks, my tail had shrunk to nothing but a stub and I had almost grown into my full frame.





15 And then the day arrived. My tail had completely disappeared, my legs bounced with the strength of ten men, and my voice croaked deeper than the foghorn that sounded in the distance.

16 Quickly, I ate up the last of my fly filet and hopped right onto the lily pad of Mademoiselle Ami.

“Mon amour,” I said as I gave a gentle bow. And with the twirl of my hand I pulled her into my arms and we danced beneath the stars of France.

17

## François the Dashing Croaker (continued)



18 And that, my friend, is how I came to be here talking to you. You see, our eggs and future children are right next to your foot.

Had I let you take one step more, you might have destroyed the eggs and my wife's heart. As we say in France – love before all, my friend!

“Au revoir!”

19

20



# The Life Cycle of a Frog

## Classification

21 Frogs are classified as amphibians. This means they live on land and in water.

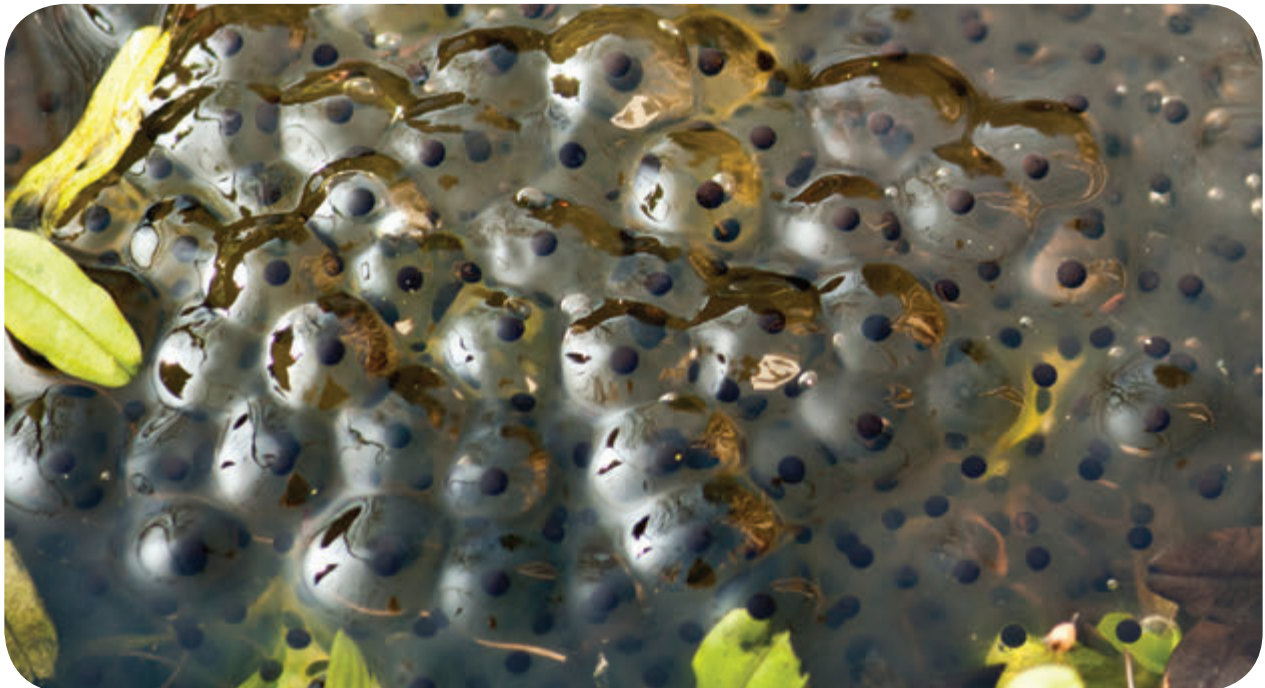
22 Frogs are also one of the rare species that undergoes metamorphosis. Metamorphosis (met-uh-MAWR-fuh-sis) means that as frogs grow from babies to adults they undergo significant changes. Frogs go through four main stages during their life cycle.

## Stage 1: Egg

Frogs begin their lives as eggs.

Frog eggs are laid in water. Frogs lay eggs in large clusters.

A frog egg begins with just one yolk. The yolk then divides into two yolks. Then it divides again into four yolks. This process continues until the egg looks like a chain of yolks. After a period of 6-21 days, the egg begins to look like a tadpole.



# The Life Cycle of a Frog (continued)

## Stage 2: Tadpole



25 Tadpoles emerge from the eggs and into the water. They swim through the water and feed on algae.

26 Tadpoles breathe through gills like fish. This gives them the ability to breathe underwater. Eventually the tadpoles will lose their gills and breathe outside of the water. This is one of the examples of metamorphosis.



### Stage 3: Froglet



27 After 6-9 weeks, the tadpole begins to sprout tiny legs. Soon after, arms begin to pop out elbow first. The tadpole has officially transitioned into a froglet.

By week 12, a froglet has grown into a small frog with a long tail. The froglet moves from living in water to living on the land for the first time.

28

# The Life Cycle of a Frog (continued)

## Stage 4: Adult Frog



29 Between 12-16 weeks, the frog has completed its growth cycle. It is now considered an adult frog. It can choose to swim in the water or hop on the land.

The frog has drastically changed since its life began as a small egg in the calm waters. It experienced metamorphosis and now lives the life of an amphibian.

30

# SWAMP SYMPHONIES

PLIP, PLOP, CROOOAAAK...

PLIP, PLOP, CROOOAAAK...

RIIB-BBIT

RIIB-BBIT

SPLASH, SPLASH, SQUISH

THE SOUNDS OF THE FROG

SUCH A MELODIOUS SONG

STAGES OF LILY PADS BENEATH OUR FEET

HELP US WRITE SYMPHONIES THAT ARE OH, SO SWEET

THE AURA OF "AMOUR" FILLS THE AIR  
INSPIRING CHARMING CHANTS OF LOVE, TO SHARE  
MOVED BY THE MUSIC WE BEGIN TO DANCE  
AFTER ALL, MY DEAR, THIS IS FRANCE...

PLIP, PLOP, CROOOAAAK...

PLIP, PLOP, CROOOAAAK...

RIIB-BBIT

RIIB-BBIT

SPLASH, SPLASH, SQUISH



# References

## Images

Page 9

Frogspawn ©istockphoto.com/bigemrg

<http://www.istockphoto.com/stock-photo-19678872-frogspawn.php?st=5e56346>

Page 10

Tadpoles closeup ©istockphoto.com/Prill

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Tadpole changing into a frog ©istockphoto.com/Atelopos

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Frog with Tadpoles ©istockphoto.com/NicolasMcComber

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# Quick Writes



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# Quick Writes

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# Quick Writes



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# Research Integrate and Synthesize

## DIRECTIONS

Integrate or synthesize information from two sources on the same topic. Use this book as one of the sources. Enter the titles or websites of the two sources in the space provided. Enter 2-3 facts from each source. Using the facts from both sources, write a short research paper of one or two paragraphs.

1 Source _____	2 Source _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>

## Writing Space






# Vocabulary

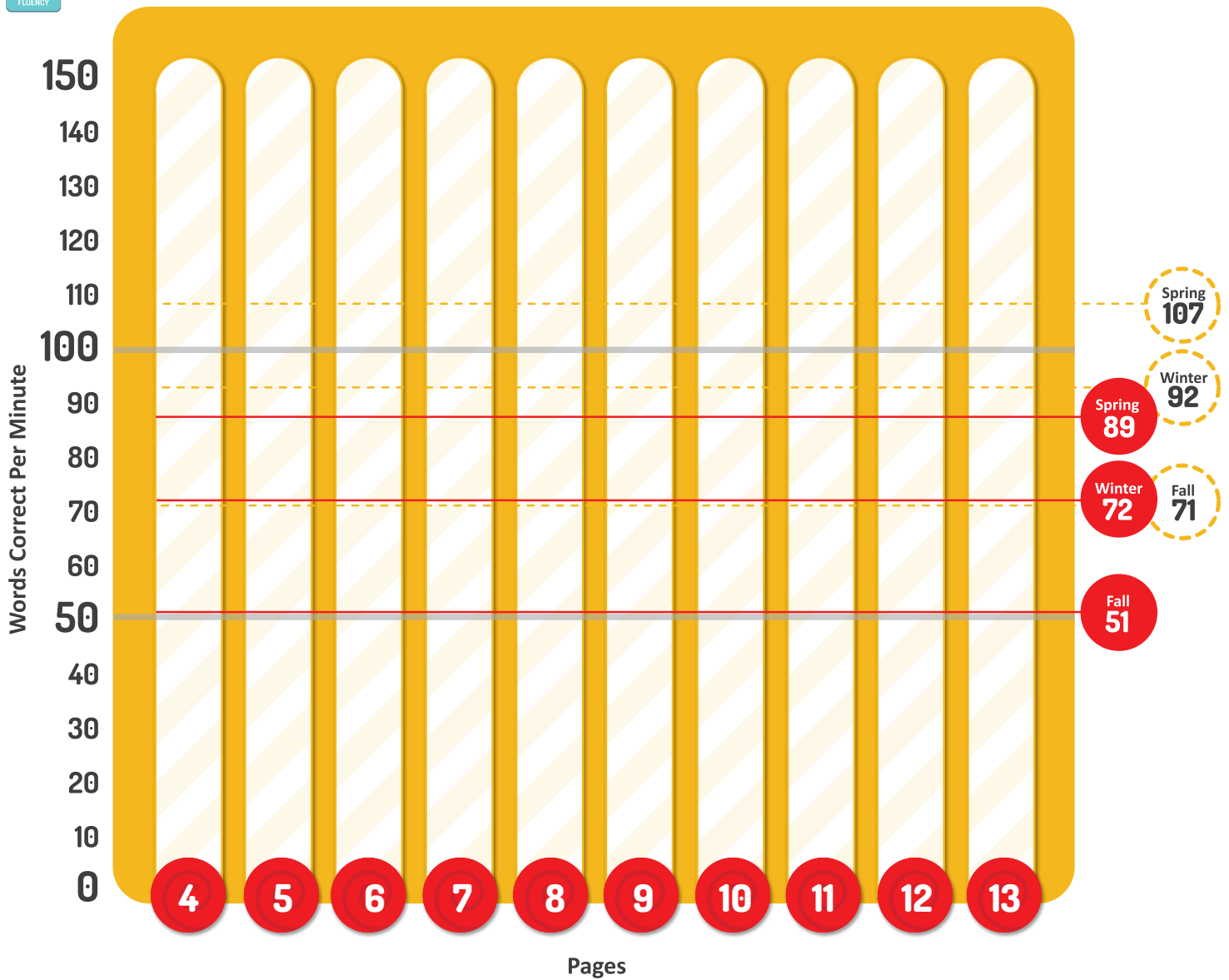
## DIRECTIONS

List unknown vocabulary words on the chart provided. Give a brief definition from a print or digital source. Create your own link (image, symbol, word association). Briefly explain the impact of the word choice on the tone or meaning of the text.

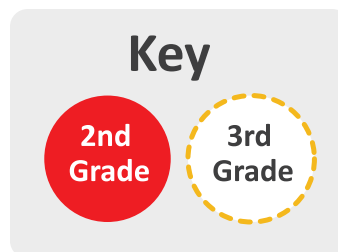
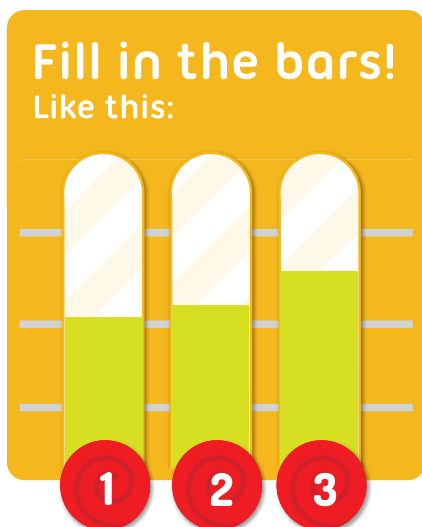
TEXT \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

	Word or Phrase	Brief Definition	My Link	Tone or Meaning
Paragraph #				

# Oral Reading Fluency Chart



How to fill out your chart:



# Book Check : François the Dashing Croaker

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total:



- 1 Select a paragraph. Write a question and answer. Cite one detail from the text to support the answer.



Paragraph \_\_\_\_\_

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- 2 What is the central message of the first text, François: The Dashing Croaker? Create a new title for the text that restates the central message. Why did you choose this title?



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- 3 Reread paragraphs 1-7 and 18-20. Describe how François responded to the reader almost stepping on his eggs.



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- 4 Select 2 words or phrases from the book that are important to you as a reader. Tell why you chose these words.



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5 Select a text feature (caption, bold print, heading, icon, key word, hyperlinks) from the book. Explain what information it helps you locate.



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6 Why did the author write Francois?



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Why did the author write The Life Cycle of a Frog?

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7 Select a map, chart, diagram, graph, illustration, or photograph from the book. Explain how it helps you understand the text.



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8 In paragraph 22, the author claims, “as frogs grow from babies to adults, they undergo significant changes.” How does the author support this claim? Write the sentence below.



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9 Compare and contrast the topics presented in Francois and The Life Cycle of a Frog. How are they the same or different? Find and write a sentence from each text to support your answer.



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