

CDJ BOOKS READER RESOURCE

Eugene, The Wayward Frog

Parent & Teacher Guide

Discussion questions, storytime prompts, classroom ideas, and simple activities for parents, teachers, librarians, and families.



For storytime, classrooms, libraries, homeschool families, and parent-child reading.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help adults use Eugene, The Wayward Frog as a gentle starting point for meaningful conversations with children.

Eugene's story can help young readers talk about curiosity, courage, choices, mistakes, adventure, friendship, and the feeling of being a little different.

You do not need to use every question or activity. Choose the sections that fit your child, classroom, library group, or storytime setting. The goal is to make reading feel warm, safe, thoughtful, and fun.

Best for	Parents, teachers, librarians, homeschool families, and storytime leaders.
Primary themes	Curiosity, courage, friendship, mistakes, adventure, being different, and finding your way.
How to use	Pick a few questions before, during, or after reading. Add one activity if time allows.

Story Themes to Explore

These themes can guide conversations before, during, and after reading.

Curiosity Eugene reminds children that curiosity can lead to discovery, questions, and new ways of seeing the world.	Courage The story can help children talk about trying something new, even when they feel unsure.
Mistakes Eugene's journey can open a gentle conversation about learning from mistakes instead of feeling ashamed of them.	Friendship Children can reflect on kindness, helping others, listening, and being a good friend.



Being Different

Eugene's wayward nature can help children understand that being different can also be special.

Finding Your Way

The story encourages children to think about growing, learning, and discovering where they belong.



Before Reading: Warm-Up Questions

Use these questions before reading to help children connect with the story.

- 1 What do you think a “wayward” frog might be like?
- 2 Have you ever wanted to explore somewhere new?
- 3 What does it feel like to be curious?
- 4 What do you think frogs might wonder about?
- 5 Have you ever done something differently from everyone else?

During Reading: Pause-and-Talk Prompts

Use these prompts while reading aloud. Pause at natural moments and invite children to think, guess, or respond.

- 1 What do you think Eugene is feeling right now?
- 2 What would you do if you were Eugene?
- 3 Do you think Eugene is being brave, curious, or both?
- 4 What clues in the picture help you understand the story?
- 5 What do you think might happen next?
- 6 Has Eugene learned anything yet?

After Reading: Discussion Questions

Use these questions after reading to help children talk about the story in a thoughtful and age-appropriate way.

Curiosity and Adventure

- 1 Why do you think Eugene wanted to explore?
- 2 Is curiosity a good thing? Why?
- 3 Can curiosity sometimes get us into trouble?
- 4 What is something new you would like to learn or explore?
- 5 How can we be curious and still make safe choices?



Courage and Trying New Things

- 1 Was Eugene brave? What made him brave?
- 2 Does being brave mean you are never scared?
- 3 Can you remember a time when you tried something new?
- 4 Who helps you feel brave?
- 5 What would you say to Eugene if he felt nervous?

Mistakes and Learning

- 1 Did Eugene make any mistakes?
- 2 What can mistakes teach us?
- 3 How should we treat ourselves when we make a mistake?
- 4 How can friends or family help us when we make a mistake?
- 5 What is one mistake that helped you learn something?



Friendship and Kindness

- 1 What makes someone a good friend?
- 2 How can we help a friend who feels lost or unsure?
- 3 Did Eugene need help? How do you know?
- 4 Why is listening important in friendship?
- 5 What kind thing could you do for someone this week?

Being Different and Finding Your Way

- 1 What makes Eugene different from other frogs?
- 2 Is being different a bad thing?
- 3 What is something special about the way you see the world?
- 4 How can we celebrate people who are different from us?
- 5 What does “finding your way” mean to you?

30-Minute Storytime Format

This simple structure works well for parents, classrooms, libraries, and small reading groups.

1. Welcome Ask children what they know about frogs and where frogs live. 5 minutes	2. Read Aloud Read the story slowly and pause for picture observations and predictions. 10 minutes
3. Talk Together Choose three or four discussion questions about curiosity, courage, or mistakes. 10 minutes	4. Creative Close Invite children to draw Eugene, a pond, or a place they would like to explore. 5 minutes

Simple Activity Ideas

These activities can be used at home, in a classroom, or during library storytime.

Draw Eugene's Pond Ask children to draw the pond where Eugene lives. What animals, plants, colors, and surprises would they include?	My Brave Moment Have children draw or write about a time they tried something new or felt brave.
Curiosity Walk Take a short walk and ask children to notice three things they have never paid attention to before.	Kindness Lily Pad Cut out paper lily pads. On each one, children write or draw one kind thing they can do for someone.
What Happens Next? Invite children to imagine Eugene's next adventure. Where might he go, and what might he learn?	Feelings Chart Ask children to name Eugene's feelings during the story and connect them to times they have felt the same way.

For Teachers and Librarians

This guide can support classroom conversations, library storytime, homeschool reading, literacy events, and parent-child discussion.

- ✓ Use the warm-up questions before reading aloud.
- ✓ Use pause-and-talk prompts during storytime.
- ✓ Use the discussion questions after reading.
- ✓ Use the activity ideas for classroom or library engagement.
- ✓ Use the themes to connect the story to social-emotional learning.

Adapting the Guide by Audience



For Younger Children Focus on feelings, pictures, animals, colors, and simple questions like “How does Eugene feel?”	For Older Children Discuss choices, consequences, courage, and how mistakes can become learning moments.	For Groups Let children share answers out loud, draw responses, or act out parts of Eugene’s adventure.
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Continue the Adventure

Explore Eugene, The Wayward Frog

Return to the official book page to learn more about Eugene's story, watch videos, and find official links.

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Prepared by CDJ Books. This guide is intended for discussion, storytime, classroom, library, and family reading use.