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Introduction

Using poetry with children is a wonderful way to instruct and motivate. In this book, *Phonics Poetry Using Blends*, consonant blends are presented in poems which repeatedly use a particular blend sound. A consonant blend is made up of two or more consonants that appear together in a word without any vowels between them. Although each consonant sound can be heard, the sounds are said closely together. Consonant blends are sometimes difficult for children to hear. Familiarity with these sounds will benefit children as they strive to become good readers. In this book, children are given opportunities to practice the sounds through the use of reproducible activity pages involving both reading and writing activities.

These poems and activity pages can be presented in different ways depending on the age and ability level of the children. For younger children, the poems can be read together as a class. The teacher can guide the children through the process of listening for and locating the blends. Older children can utilize the sounds to decipher words on their own.

Before each new blend sound is presented, prepare a copy of the appropriate poem for each child. Read through the poem first and carry on a discussion to make sure the children comprehend the message of the poem. Then reread, or have the children reread, and highlight the words containing the blend sound. Some of the activity pages are suitable for the younger primary child, while others are geared to upper primary.

You might want to let the students take the poems home to practice, or you might prefer that the students save their poems to become part of a poetry collection. We hope that you and your students enjoy using these poems and worksheets. We feel certain that they will help to provide engaging and effective phonics practice in your integrated reading and writing program.

CORRELATION OF STANDARDS

Standard: Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process

- Creates mental images from pictures and print
- Uses basic elements of phonetic analysis to decode unknown words
- Reads aloud familiar stories, poems, and passages with fluency and expression

Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts

- Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., poems)

Standard: Uses listening and speaking strategies for different purposes

- Recites and responds to familiar stories, poems, and rhymes with patterns

*All standards listed above are from *A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education* (Copyright 2004 McREL, www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks) Language Arts (Grades K-2).

Ribbeting Romance

Freddy's body had freckled skin.
When Frieda hopped by, he wore a big grin.

To catch her eye, he'd croak and croak.
Yet Frieda just frolicked* and never spoke.

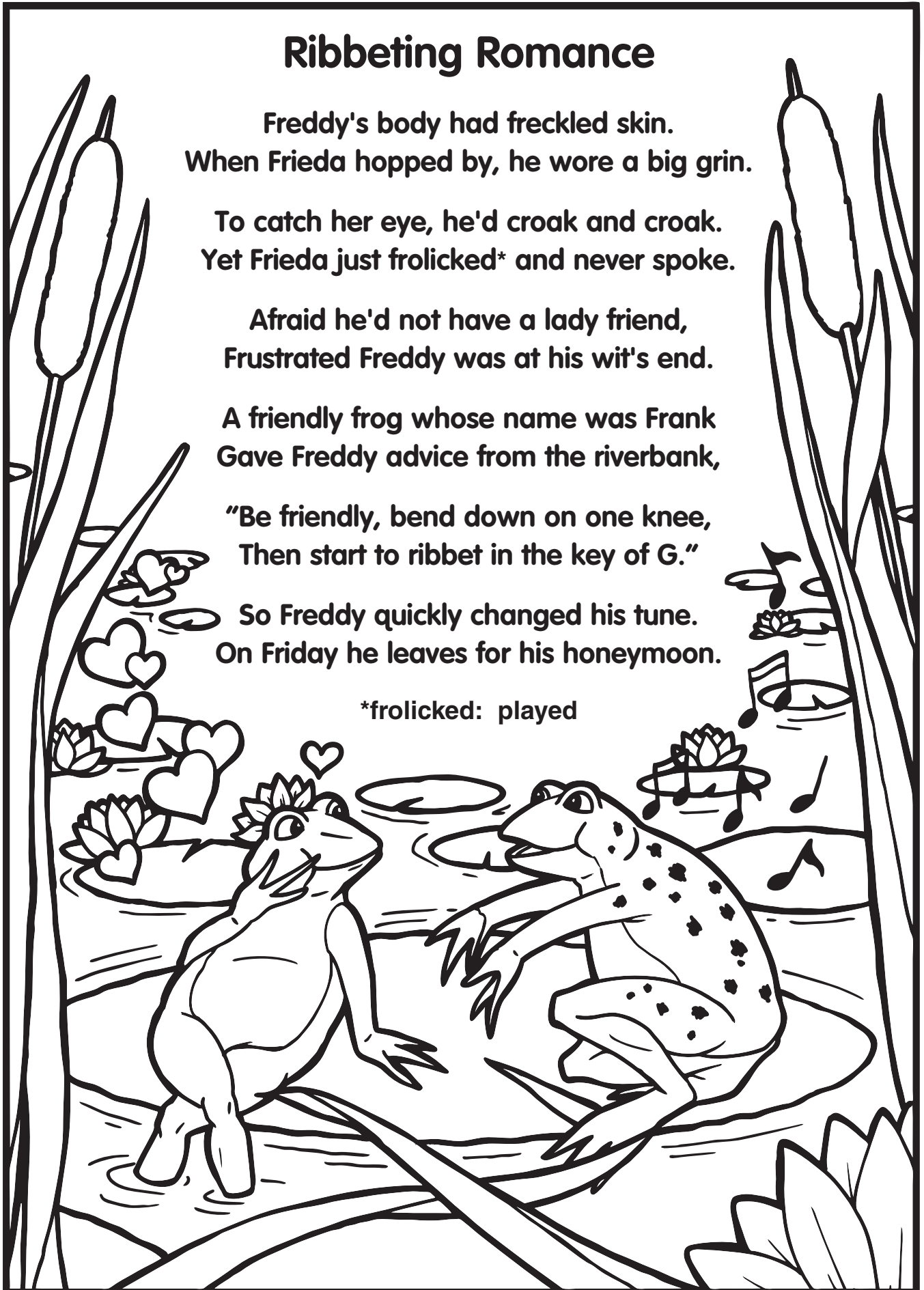
Afraid he'd not have a lady friend,
Frustrated Freddy was at his wit's end.

A friendly frog whose name was Frank
Gave Freddy advice from the riverbank,

"Be friendly, bend down on one knee,
Then start to ribbet in the key of G."

So Freddy quickly changed his tune.
On Friday he leaves for his honeymoon.

*frolicked: played



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Directions: Find and list all the *fr* blend words found in the poem, "Ribbeting Romance." Practice reading the words.

Directions: Write some sentences using the *fr* words listed above.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Help Freddy jump across the lily pads to reach Frieda. Color green the *fr* blend words that describe Freddy in the poem. Then connect the colored words with a line to show the path Freddy traveled.

