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Frog's Best friend

Devi Chitrapu

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Bauer, Marion Dane. *Frog's Best Friend*. Illustrated by Diane Dawson Hearn. Holiday House, 2002. ISBN 0823415015. \$14.95. 48 pp.

Reviewer: Devi Chitrapu

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fiction; Picture books

Subject: Frogs--Fiction; Turtles--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Books--Reviews

Written by Newbery Honor Book award recipient Marion Dane Bauer, *Frog's Best Friend* teaches the meaning and value of friendship. The book also introduces children to the seasons and the activities associated with them. It teaches them, for instance, that winter, besides being uncomfortably cold, is a quiet season during which many animals sleep for a long time. The book opens with spring, contrasting its beauty, life, and activity with the dull winter.

Spring heralds life, beauty, and friendship. Frog and Turtle wake from their long winter sleep and are happy to see spring with all its warmth, green grass, beautiful flowers, and ponds full of water. Frog and Turtle are happy to swim in the water, and birds and animals are happy to fly and run around. Frog is happy to see his best and only friend, Turtle. Frog, Turtle, Otter, and Squirrel all agree that spring is the best of all the seasons. They all want to be friends, except for Frog, who considers only Turtle as his best friend and even gets mad at Turtle for saying that Otter, Squirrel, and Bird are also dear to him. However, circumstances make Frog realize that he is mistaken in not considering them all as friends when they all come to his rescue and save him from being swallowed by Bear.

The book is written with simple language and can be used for developing reading skills in grades one and two. There are no difficult words, and the book is conveniently divided into six small chapters so teachers can space the book over a week. Beautiful illustrations complement the story and help readers grasp the meaning easily.