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The Rizzlerunk Club: Best Buds Under Frogs

Aubrey Parry

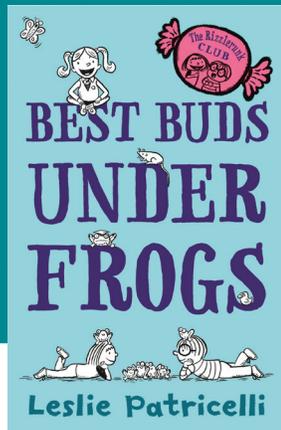
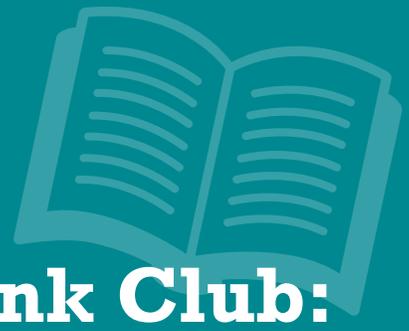
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Book Review

The Rizzlerunk Club: Best Buds Under Frogs

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Leslie Patricelli

Illustrator

Leslie Patricelli

Reviewer

Aubrey Parry

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

Pages

275

Year

2018

ISBN

9780763651046

Publisher

Candlewick Press

Lily knows she's doomed to a life with no friends when she throws up in front of everyone at recess. That's why she's surprised when she begins to like Darby, the very girl who made fun of her every day in class. Soon, the two become best friends and create their own club, the Rizzlerunk Club, named after the captain of a ship that sank in a nearby lake. Everything changes when Darby's former best friend comes back to school and gets invited to join their club. Lily realizes the old friend is not a good influence on either of them. She must learn to stand up for herself and say no to bad ideas, no matter how fun they sound, while encouraging Darby to do the same.

Best Buds Under Frogs is great for readers transitioning to independent reading of novel-length books. Readers get the bulk of the story from the words with very little help from pictures, though the illustrations are fun additions to the story. Patricelli does a wonderful job writing from Lily's perspective, and shows many different struggles a girl her age would go through. There is a scene for parents to be aware of that happens when Lily and Darby find some frogs mating and mistake them for conjoined twin frogs. Patricelli does a wonderful job of keeping the whole event surrounding this delicate topic light, making it a learning experience for her characters and for readers. This book would be a wonderful tool for helping children learn to stand up for themselves and do the right thing, even when their friends do not.

*Contains mild sexual references