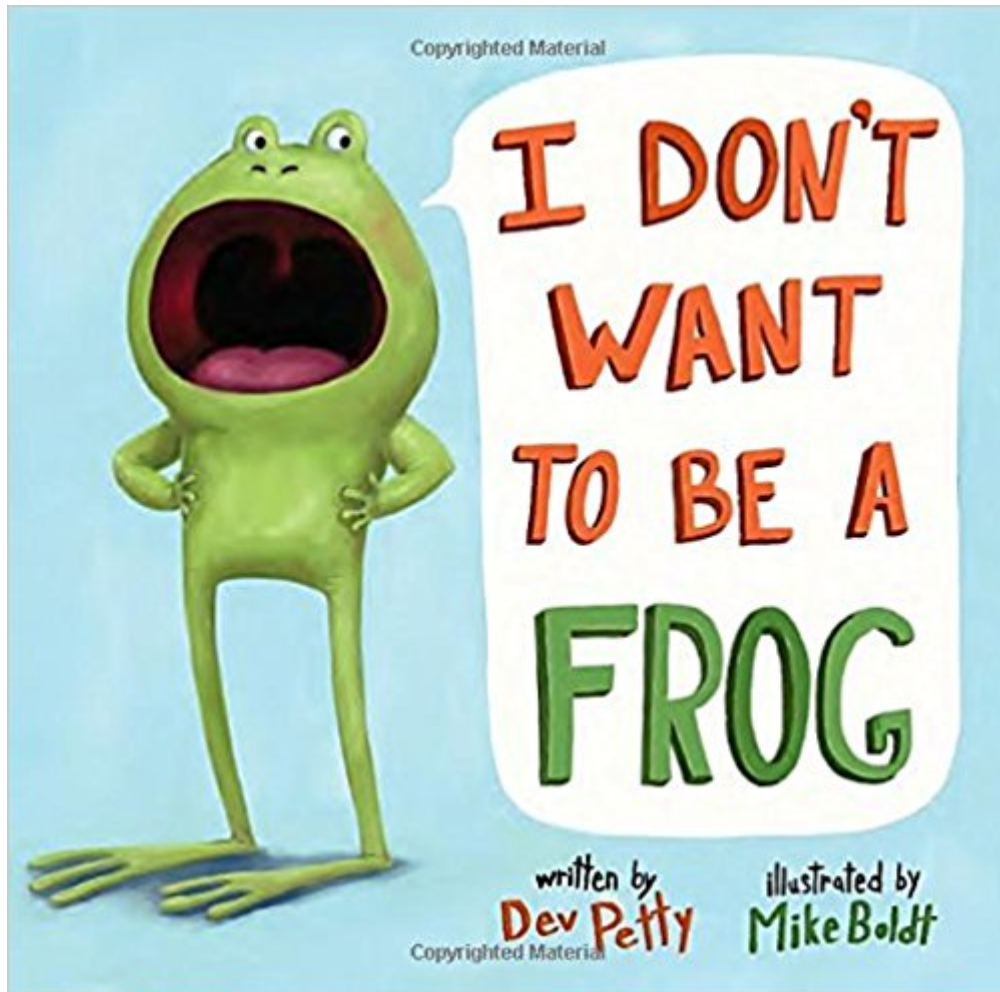




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# I Don't Want To Be A Frog



## Synopsis

The hit book about a willful young frog with a serious identity crisis and his heard-it-all-before father! Perfect for fans of Mo Willems's *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* and Jon Klassen's *I Want My Hat Back!* Frog wants to be anything but a slimy, wet frog. A cat, perhaps. Or a rabbit. An owl? But when a hungry wolf arrives—a wolf who HATES eating frogs—our hero decides that being himself isn't so bad after all. In this very silly story with a sly message, told in hilarious dialogue between a feisty young frog and his heard-it-all-before father, young readers will identify with little Frog's desire to be something different, while laughing along at his stubborn yet endearing schemes to prove himself right. And look for the hilarious sequel - *I Don't Want to Be Big* - available now!

“First-time author Petty's dialogue between a frog father and his son makes its point about accepting one's nature with a big grin. . . . The story might create similar gratitude in the minds of readers—or it might just make them giggle.” *Publishers Weekly*, **★ STARRED REVIEW** “A lively look at self-acceptance.” *Kirkus Reviews* “This amusing story ends with a laugh and a much more content frog.” *School Library Journal* “Silliness and deadpan humor combine into a hopping good story of being happy with who you are.” *Booklist* “A paean to self-acceptance wrapped in snappy dialogue and illustrated with richly colored comic paintings.” *Wall Street Journal* “Petty and Boldt provide just enough predictability to hook youngest readers, then deliver a delightful twist or two to create surprise and satisfaction—for both the green hero and the many fans he'll make with this book.” *Shelf Awareness* “This lighthearted exploration of identity will delight as a readaloud.” *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD180L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Doubleday Books for Young Readers (February 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385378661

ISBN-13: 978-0385378666

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.3 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 221 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #22,850 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Frogs & Toads #183 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life >

Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect #1142 in Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2 "Expressive, painted illustrations depict two bipedal frogs deep in a discussion. The duo is set against a solid colored background where sparse details successfully highlight the conversation, which is conveyed in speech balloons. The smaller of the frogs announces that he doesn't want to be a frog, he'd prefer to be a cat, pig, rabbit, or owl. The larger frog has a counterargument for each choice. Finally, a large wolf interjects that we would eat anything, except for frogs, the reasons being the qualities that the small frog also dislikes: too wet, slimy, and bug-eating. This amusing story ends with a laugh and a much more content frog." Laura Hunter, Mount Laurel Library, NJ --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

\* "First-time author Petty's dialogue between a frog father and his son makes its point about accepting one's nature with a big grin. . . . The story might create similar gratitude in the minds of readers or it might just make them giggle." Publishers Weekly, **STARRED REVIEW** "A lively look at self-acceptance." Kirkus Reviews "This amusing story ends with a laugh and a much more content frog." School Library Journal "Silliness and deadpan humor combine into a hopping good story of being happy with who you are." Booklist "A paean to self-acceptance wrapped in snappy dialogue and illustrated with richly colored comic paintings." Wall Street Journal "Petty and Boldt provide just enough predictability to hook youngest readers, then deliver a delightful twist or two to create surprise and satisfaction for both the green hero and the many fans he'll make with this book." Shelf Awareness "This lighthearted exploration of identity will delight as a read-aloud." The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

I love this book! The storyline is very funny, and I've never seen a more perfect fusion of words and images in a picture book. Mike Boldt's pictures make young frog's enthusiastic energy jump off the page, and Dev Petty's words charmingly and hilariously convey young frog's wild imaginings of being some other cute and warm kind of animal in his dialogue with dad frog. The story's dramatic pivot is when the wolf enters the picture and interrupts young frog's reverie of freedom. The blissful ignorance of

youth collides with nature red in tooth and claw. The uh-oh hold-my-breath expression Mike Boldt paints on dad frog's face at that moment is priceless, and also dad frog's look of exasperation mixed with parental indulgence later when it becomes clear young frog hasn't quite grasped the message. And then there's the bag full of organic badgers and the bug sandwiches and more. Kids who read and look at this book will laugh and say "Eewwww." Finally, one of the many lessons of the book is there are advantages to accepting and being who you are. Not least, in this story, the advantage of not being an appetizing choice on the wolf's lunch menu.

I purchase hundreds of children's book each year. It has been years since I can recommend a contemporary book that stacks up against classics. This is the exception. Simplistic page text, that builds to the conclusion in a fun and silly genre, that is perfect for young children. The illustrations are perfection and the message is fortified with each page turn. "Be Happy With Who You Are" The bug sandwich had my 3 year old grandson laughing aloud. His twin sister became territorial with the book, insisting on sleeping with it on her nightstand. The next night they both chose "I don't Want to be a frog" for a repeat performance at bedtime.

My husband and I share this account, but I am the one who loves children's books, and purchased this gem. Over the past 25 years I've gathered a collection of over 700, and I have read each one. I've also been very interested in what books children really enjoy and why, from their point of view, so I've asked them directly; and I ask adults what were their favorite books from childhood. This has lead to many great finds, and a bit of insight. Many children's books are written to entice adults to buy them, but are not really for the child; many are boring, preachy, or just plain stupid. Great illustrations are wonderful, but for me, the story has to be good also or I'm not interested. I'm no expert, I have no training besides raising and reading to our two wonderful children, but I've read literally thousands of children's books, and this book is a true gem. It was a refreshing find amid a tedious mass. Here is why I loved this book: \* Very good story, the child frog wants to be a an owl, a rabbit, anything but a frog, and the patient dad, tries to explain why he can't: " You don't have big ears. Your a frog....." \* Funny. The child persists as only a child can, and the dad endures and has some very good one-liners. \* The dad, not the mom (moms are great), or magic or anything else is a good strong endearing character that the reader likes. \* What convinces the child IS NOT the dad's reasoning, though it is very sound, but a surprise character that is awesomely menacing and wise. My book is on loan, so forgive me as I paraphrase and condense it's quotes: "Why are you crying?"

asks the large shadowy dark figure that we see only from behind. "I don't want to be a frog, they are wet, and slimy and full of flies!" answers the frog. "What do you want to be" says the dark figure which we now see is a very large wolf. "I want to be a rabbit, or owl....." says the frog. Now on the next page, the black wolf is taking up most to the page and is holding dad frog up by his froggie leg, very close to his open mouth that we see is full of large sharp teeth. "I'll tell you something" says the wolf in a dark, low soft growl, "I'm very hungry and I would love to eat a rabbit or an owl, but I won't eat a frog. Do you know why?" asks the hisses the wolf. "No" squeaks the child frog. "Because they are wet and slimy and full of flies", says the wolf and sets the dad frog down safely; and adds as he stealths away "Just be glad you are a frog.....". There is more, I have left out quite a bit in the above summary, the actual text has a wonderful cadence and flow, but hopefully you get the idea.\* The illustrations are delightful, engaging and upbeat so the book is not scary or dark, though the feel of danger and menacing are effectly portrayed; the illustration perfectly complement the narrative.\* It has much a child can relate to and laugh at, yet still has depth and concepts that they can grow with.\* As a parent reading it, so much fun can be had with the different characters voices'. I love it. This book is a definite BUY NOW.

My son LOVES this book. He's 4 and we've been reading it to him for over a year now. We get it from the library every few months and it's a favorite in our household. Whenever there's a book exchange or birthday gift needed, I always buy this book and get lots of comments from those who receive it. The only part I don't like is at the end where the scary wolf advises that he eats all of the cute fluffy animals that the frog wants to be. I don't think my son understands the whole eating of animals concept yet and sometimes tells me the wolf is a little scary but like most kids, they still enjoy reading the book. Great book!

This book is absolutely adorable. The illustrations are simple, but with details that make them compelling. I loved the story line. The book is a dialogue book, meaning there is no telling what is happening, the whole book is made up of what the characters say to each other. One of the strongest recommendations for a book is when students ask to hear it again. I have read this book to several groups of students, all of whom wanted to hear it again or have it to read by themselves.

Delightful book. Gives kids food for thought in just being themselves and happy. Things are not always greener on the other side of the fence. A lesson learned at any age.

Super cute book! It has great illustrations and a cute story! I bought it for my 4 yr. old who loves frogs/ lizards-- when I read it to her she liked looking at the pictures.

My pre-schooler loves this book, his class loved this book, and I think it's pretty swell as well. It's rare to find a children's book that reinforces differences in a positive way. This is a wonderful story with fun illustrations that teaches an important point without being heavy-handed at all.

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