The Water Boatman

by Joy Cowley

illustrated by Tim Galloway

Book Summary

_The Water Boatman_ is a simple informational text describing the habits and habitats of two pond dwellers.

Features of the Book

- The regular text pattern in the early part of the story.
- The close picture/text match.
- The examples of present-tense verbs – “lives,” “swims,” “holds,” and “eats.”
- The compound words – “mudfish” and “boatman.”
- The adjectives – “front,” “middle,” and “back.”
- The high-frequency word “with.”
- The labeled diagram.

Purpose

_The Water Boatman_ can be used in a guided reading setting to introduce and reinforce the following skills and strategies:

- Encouraging rereading of the text to clarify understanding;
- Summarizing the main parts of the story;
- Introducing and discussing the meaning of new words within the story;
- Gathering information and sorting it into categories.

Introducing the text

- Has anyone ever been fishing in a pond?

Discuss the creatures that live in a pond. Look at the cover illustration and discuss the insect’s features. Read the cover information together. This insect lives in a pond.

- Why do you think it is called a “boatman”?

(The shape of the body and legs is reminiscent of a boat being rowed.)

Reading the text

- Encouraging rereading of the text to clarify understanding.

Following Up

- Gathering information and sorting it into categories.

What other pond-dwelling animals and insects can the children find references for? They could write one sentence about each of three different creatures and sort their findings into “animal” or “insect.”

Complete the blackline master opposite.