

## **Grade 1 Unit 1 Book Title: The Magic School Bus Hops Home**

### **Synopsis:**

Oh, no! Wanda's best friend, Bella the bullfrog, is missing. The class wants to help look for her. Ms. Frizzle says, "The best way to find a frog is to be a frog!" So, the kids take a ride on the Magic School Bus. Join them as they shrink to frog size and learn all about animal habitats!

### **Big Ideas and Key Understanding:**

Animals, Biology and Life Science, Creativity, Oceans, Lakes and Rivers

### **Key words and Vocabulary activities:**

Shrink

Habitat

Shelter

Predator

Make a bull frog's ideal habitat using the vocabulary words above. For example, write out the word "habitat" and draw what should be included within the word.

### **Pre Reading Questions:**

Based on the picture on the cover of the book, what do you think the book The Magic School Bus Hops Home is about?

## **Read Story:**

### **Discussion Prompts:**

Would you like to live in Bella's environment? Why or why not?

What are the differences between Bella's environment and your environment?

How did you feel when Bella went back to her environment?

### **Extension Activities:**

Since bull frogs are hard to find, go outside and dig until you find an earthworm. How long did it take to find the worm?

Observe the worm's actions for a few minutes. What did it do while you were watching it?

Put some dry cereal near the worm. Watch what happens next! Write it down and share it with a friend.

Watch the video of this book! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsZMRSQEUvI>

How was the video different from what you pictured when you read the book?

## Unit 1 Grade 1 Mutt Dog by Stephen Michael King

### **Synopsis:**

Mutt Dog is a stray. He wanders the city trying to find food and a safe place to sleep. One day he follows a lady who also lives on the street to a halfway house. A woman who works there gives him some food and a comfy box for a bed. But in the morning she says he has to go back on the streets. But does he? The lady who works in the halfway house takes him home and finally he has a place where he belongs.

### **Big Ideas and Key Understanding:**

Animals, Character and Values

### **Key words and Vocabulary activities:**

Stray

Belong

Mutt

Hunger

Cozy

Play Pictionary using the key words listed above!! Draw the word and have your friends and family guess what it is!

### **Pre Reading Questions:**

Have you ever seen a stray dog and wondered who takes care of them?

Based on the picture on the cover of the book, what do you think the book is about?

**Read Story:**

**Discussion Prompts:**

Life on the streets of the city is hard for Mutt Dog. Talk about what he eats and where he sleeps. Is it a dangerous life? Does anyone take any notice of him?

All through the story there are people who, like Mutt Dog, have nowhere to go. Talk about what they are doing in the pictures. Why do they need the halfway house? What does it give them? Do you think that they might have good qualities like Mutt Dog has?

When the lady from the halfway house takes Mutt Dog home, how is his life different?

**Extension Activities:**

Do you have a pet? How did you and your family decide on his/her name? If your pet was already part of the family before you were born, ask your parents how your pet was chosen! (if you don't have a pet, ask someone who has one—a family member, a friend or neighbor would be a great source!)

Draw a picture of story of how your pet (or your friend's pet) was chosen.

Mutt Dog's life is changed because of one kind lady. She could have ignored him like everyone else did, but she didn't. Do you think it is important that people are kind to animals and to each other? Can doing little things make a big difference in other people's and animals' lives? What does the lady get in return for being kind to Mutt Dog? Describe something little that someone has done for you that makes you happier.

What can you do for someone that can make them happier?