

# Green Tree Frogs

## Teachers' notes

Written and illustrated by Sandra Kendell  
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Each year monsoonal rains sweep across the Top End and the green tree frogs clamber from their hiding places to feed, breed and sing! Green Tree Frogs is an affectionate celebration of these cheeky characters and of life in the wet season. It also provides an entertaining insight into the amphibious life cycle.

### A note from the author:

In northern Australia the re-emergence of the Green Tree Frogs signals the beginning of the rainy season, a welcome relief from the oppressive heat of the "build up". It's exciting to hear their call once again and then find them in funny unexpected places.

To celebrate this endearing native animal I wanted to reflect a common perception of them as humorous characters but also incorporate some factual information about their ecology. I researched information and images of Green Tree Frogs and also have a wealth of source material living in my backyard!

The frogs are caricatured, reflecting the light hearted nature of the text, the large eyes and "smiles" exaggerated. In

contrast the depiction of their life cycle is more illustrative. I chose to work in watercolour to embellish some backgrounds with drips and splashes to emphasise the damp and fecundity resulting from the onset of the wet season. In order to get the depth of colour desired I layered multiple detailed washes over the foreground characters. I also chose to have some sparse backgrounds alternating with a pages of dark dense colour to reflect something of the rhythm of the text.

### Before Reading

What do you know about green tree frogs?

Have you had any experience with green tree frogs before?

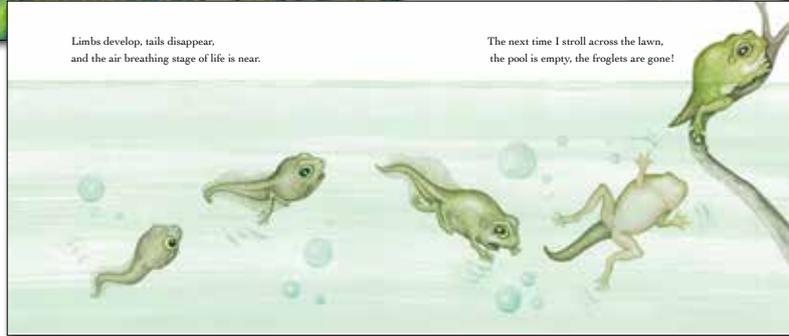
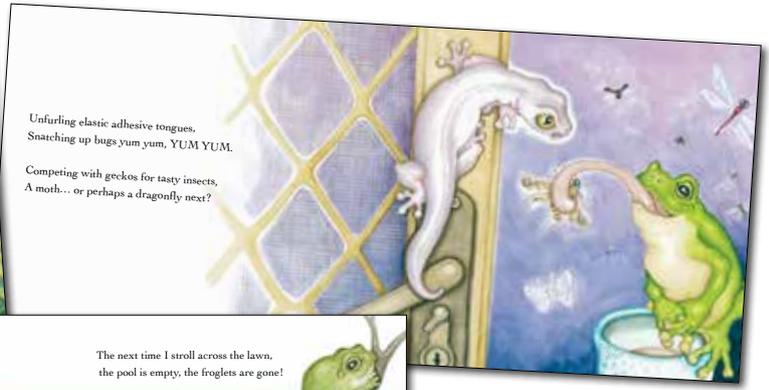
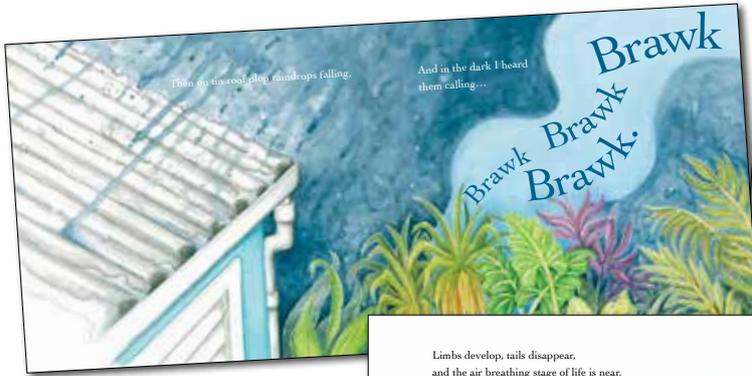
### After Reading

Have you learnt anything new about green tree frogs?

Has the book changed anything you thought about green tree frogs?

What are some other names you can find for the green tree frog?





### Early Childhood

Make paint the colour of green tree frogs. What other things can you find that are that colour?

Make a collage using your green items and paint

What instrument can you find that makes a sound like the frog?

Read the book aloud and have the whole group use instruments to make the brawk brawk noise.

Find songs or rhymes about frogs

### Primary

Using the narrative, can you map out the lifecycle of the green tree frog? You may choose to illustrate it or write it in your own words.

Can you do some research in to how long a green tree frog might live.

What are some characteristics of the green tree frog that sets it apart from other types of frogs?

Draw some of the places where you might find a green tree frog.

Can you mark on a map of Australia, places where green tree frogs may be found?

Are green tree frogs under threat at all? What are some things that may be threatening their survival?

The noise the frog makes is important to the story. Why do you think this is?

Can you find something that makes this noise? What do you think may be some of the other noises or sound effects that you may associate with the green tree frog.

Make a video with drawing of the various stages of the frog's lifecycle and add appropriate sound effects. (There are various apps that allow you to turn photos or scanned images in to videos)

