



## By Mouse and Frog

*Deborah Freedman*

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Fastidious Mouse has one idea about how to tell a story. Free-spirited Frog has another. What happens when Frog crashes into Mouse's story with some wild ideas? Chaos!...followed by the discovery that working together means being willing to compromise—and that listening to one another can lead to the most beautiful stories of all.

## By Mouse and Frog Details

Date : Published April 14th 2015 by Viking Books for Young Readers (first published April 1st 2015)

ISBN : 9780670784905

Author : Deborah Freedman

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Language, Writing, Animals

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## **From Reader Review By Mouse and Frog for online ebook**

### **Kellee says**

Full review at: <http://www.unleashingreaders.com/?p=6290>

I love this book. Love any book that promotes imagination, writing, drawing, and cooperation. There is so much wonderful in these pages. First, the book is just so funny! Mouse and Frog are so different and the back and forth is laugh-out-loud comedic. Second, the story really makes you look at personality types and think about how to work together. Frog and Mouse's story would be a wonderful one to read and then talk about norms when working in groups on projects/assignments. Third, the book also looks at story writing and narrative elements. What is needed in a good story? Do all stories have to have the same things? All in all, this book is fun to read and will be a good jumping off point for all sorts of discussions. I think this book is going to find some major love in homes, schools, and libraries alike.

January 2018: Trent and I watched the animated audiobook on Hoopla—so good!

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### **Lorna says**

Full of whimsy! Mouse wants to write a story but Frog keeps interjecting with his own, unsolicited ideas. Younger kids will delight in the silly and fantastic nature of the stories being created. Older kids will appreciate how it addresses the challenges of cooperative work.

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### **Paula says**

This book is down right hilarious! What fun text and illustrations! Mouse and Frog are certainly entertaining with their storytelling and imagination. A great book about the power of imagination, storytelling, friendship, and sharing.

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### **Danica Midlil says**

My favorite part is the last spread:  
"Who is Deborah Freedman?"  
"I have no idea."

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### **Donalyn says**

Whimsical with a great message about friendship and collaboration.

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## **Camille De Zeeuw says**

Narrative: We are going to read our last animal friendship story today and it's called *By Mouse and Frog*. It's actually a story about these two friends writing a story. I've written lots of stories in my life. Sometimes coming up with ideas to write about can be hard. In our story Mouse has certain ideas and Frog has completely different ideas. They don't always agree. Do you think they will be able to figure out their story? (Allow time for discussion.) We'll find out in just a moment, but before we do, I want to make sure we know the difference between the author's story about our two friends and *Mouse and Frog*'s story they are writing. I'll show you how we can tell the difference. (Open the book to the first two pages.) When we are reading the story by the author of our book, the print will look regular. See? (Point out print on the first page.) So anytime we say regular writing, we know we are reading about *Mouse and Frog*. Now look at the second page. (Show the kids the page.) Notice how the writing looks different? It's slanted. We say that it is written in italics. Try that word. Italics. (Have kids try it). Whenever we see this type of writing, we will be reading about the story *Mouse and Frog* are writing. Let's look at a few more examples before we start reading. (Flip through the next couple of pages, taking note of regular and italicized writing). Let's start this story now and see if *Mouse and Frog* get **THEIR** story written.

Opening moves: Share a personal connection to the story.

Predict the outcome of the story.

Point out text features and discuss how the story is written.

Rationale: This book has a silly side to it which I think the students would enjoy. Some of the pictures and sentences would make kids smile. Besides the fun aspect, this book offers yet another important lesson about friendship: when you disagree, you can find a way to come together anyway. It rounds out my animal friends theme nicely and works well with my text set.

Pinnell, G. S., & Fountas, I. C. (2006). Engaging readers in thinking and talking about texts through interactive read aloud. *Teaching for comprehending and fluency: Thinking, talking, and writing about reading*, K-8. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann Publishing.

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## **Ricki says**

This magical story is about two friends who co-write a book together. It is a great book to teach kids about the importance of listening and valuing others' opinions. The whimsical creativeness of this title reminds me a bit of *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds, another picture book favorite. I will add more to this review closer to the publication date, but it is simply adorable and was great fun to read to my son.

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## **Michele Knott says**

Great book on cooperation and also how the writing process works - it ebbs and flows and changes. My favorite part though is at the end when *Mouse and Frog* question who the real author of the book is!

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## **Deborah says**

Why yes, of course I have read it.

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## **Matthew Winner says**

The third book is called *By Mouse & Frog* and it's written by Deborah Freedman and published by Viking. And in this story you kind of having a sibling story, if you will, of Mouse, who is this talented artist who wants to tell a story and make the illustrations really beautiful and edited down and Frog jumps in a just wants to be a part of it. Frog is a little frantic and the art style is definitely younger and not as mature. But they have to find a way to co-exist. Again, much like siblings, Mouse has to find a way to tolerate Frog, but Frog also needs to understand Mouse's boundaries. And it's got a wonderful twist. You know, Deborah Freedman is great for braking the fourth wall in her books and for just taking the story in a direction you might not expect, and she certainly delivers on *By Mouse and Frog*.

This review appears on an episode of the “Best Book Ever [this week]” segment of the Let’s Get Busy podcast. Check out the original post here: <http://lgbpodcast.blogspot.com/2015/0...>

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## **Linda says**

Things are quite mixed up in this story, a drawing begun quietly by mouse until frog intervenes with “jumping” enthusiasm. I loved each part, the ones where mouse is offended, frustrated, but frog’s energy does win mouse over, and delightful things happen. Deborah Freedman adds her own energy in the creative pencil drawings, made-up stories and colored details. This is a book that needs more than one reading and looking. The lesson learned: collaboration is fun!

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## **Mary says**

This is a bit like *Harold and the Purple Crayon* meets Wiesner's *Three Pigs*. Both Mouse and Frog are storytellers with very different imaginations. A high energy picture book that deftly uses metafiction to tell a humorous story about friendship and creativity.

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## **Margie says**

Every morning, noon and night, despite your plans, is an adventure. When you wake up you believe you have full knowledge of how your day is going to unfold. You check your calendar, the news and the weather report. You have gathered all the necessary tools to accomplish your day's tasks.

Of course if your calendar is still on March instead of April, an appointment might be missed. A banner flashing an emergency message on your television screen about unexpected electrical repairs by city workers

could foil your attempts at cooking meals. Opening your front door to see additional snow instead of the predicted partly cloudy day will definitely put a damper on leaf raking.

If a rather spirited frog happens to hop into your world, everything, absolutely everything, will shift. By Mouse & Frog (Viking, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), April 14, 2015) written and illustrated by Deborah Freedman is a story about a story. This tale starts and stops and starts and stops and explodes in creative craziness.

My full recommendation: <http://librariansquest.blogspot.com/2015/04/mouse-frog-by-deborah-freedman.html>...

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### **Tasha says**

Mouse wakes up early to start work on the new story she wants to write. It is a quiet story about a mouse who is setting the table. But before she can get any farther in her story, exuberant Frog hops in and starts adding new elements to the story, including cake, a king, and lots of ice cream. Meanwhile Mouse is trying to mop up all of the mess of the spilled tea, melting ice cream, while Frog gets completely out of control and takes over entirely. Finally Mouse has had enough and yells that Frog is not listening at all! They erase the entire mess of Frog's story and start again with just Mouse's ideas of morning tea. Frog is forlorn, unable to help until Mouse realizes that there is room in the story for her quiet ideas and Frog's wild ones.

Freedman shows without any didactic tone that collaboration on stories and art is possible, as long as everyone listens, communicates and compromises. In fact, the end result is a lot more lovely! Showing that wild ideas are not the best way to come up with a story, but that also quiet thoughts have value, is a wonderful show of support for quieter thinkers. At the same time, that wild moment of Frog's makes the entire book work, showing how out of control and wonderful some ideas can be. It's a balanced look at creativity and collaboration that is welcoming and inclusive.

As always Freedman's art is exceptional. Once again she does washes of watercolor that are gorgeously messy and free. The spilled tea and other elements of Frog's story embrace all of that. Mouse's story is shown in pencil drawings that are childlike and rough while also being very neat and structured. They show each characters personality clearly. At the end, it is a lovely marriage of the two styles, filled with bright colors and yet neat as a pin.

Creative and great fun to share aloud, this picture book demonstrates how teamwork and collaboration should work. Appropriate for ages 3-5.

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### **Kristine Hansen says**

Anyone who has ever tried to write a book with kids around the house will understand this book instantly. Here we have poor Mouse who is working on his masterpiece and along comes Frog to not only interrupt, but to put in his two cents worth on how to make the story much better.

Mouse's growing frustrating and Frog's constant obliviousness underscores this little drama that was played out in my own house just last week, only my frog is about six feet tall, and fairly autistic.

What I liked best was Mouse's solution as to how he handled the interruptions and also reached out to engage and direct Frog in something they could both wind up enjoying. This is brilliant problem solving, making this a book that is not only funny, but teaches at the same time (though the question comes up as to whether it's Frog or Mouse who is being taught).

I loved this book and enjoyed sharing it with my family. I was so absolutely delighted when I picked it up, that I read the whole thing to my husband (who is also a writer). Seeing him laugh brought an extra smile to my face. This is definitely a book not to be missed by any adult who has felt 'interrupted' or any child who loves to tell stories.

(Side note- DO check out the illustrations which are brilliantly funny. This book wins on many levels.)

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