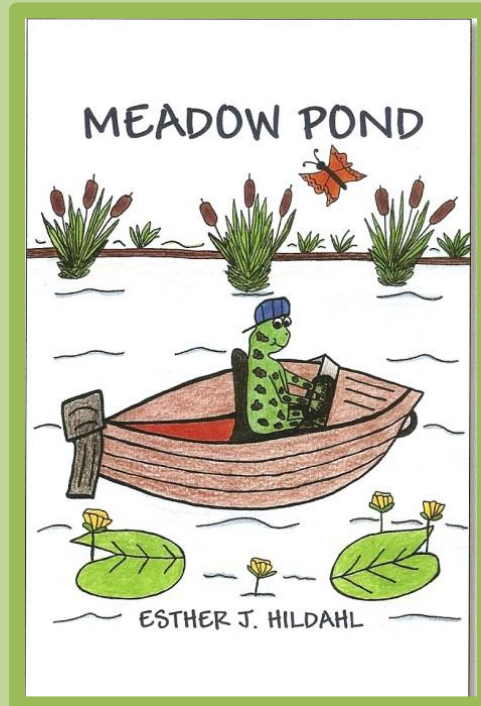


Meadow Pond

Esther J. Hildahl



Reviewed by James Bartlett Parry

In this charming children's book Esther Hildahl has anthropomorphized all of the animals living in or around Meadow Pond. They are delightful critters who have fears, doubts, happiness, and sadness, just as we humans do.

Meadow Pond teaches us many lessons: We learn much about the biology of frogs and other amphibians; we learn that putting aside differences and joining together to fight a common threat can save the day; and we learn to have respect for all of God's creatures.

You'll jump right in as Web, Clarence, Polly, Skier, Grover and others have many exciting adventures which include battles against the mean Red Boat Kids and Hes-per, the snake who likes to eat frogs. There is even a skiing turtle!

Hildahl has done a wonderful job bringing these animals to life in this cute tale that she relates so well. Although *Meadow Pond* is meant for children (ages 5 to 11), I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

This book is SO great! It starts out in the tadpole classroom as the wonderful frog teacher, Miss Gertie, explains to her students how their bodies will soon be changing. Then she tests them on the history of Meadow Pond. Charming. Next we meet the other inhabitants of the pond. The story quickly gets exciting as we meet the mean Red Boat Kids. Then there's Hes-per the snake. Ms. Hildahl has created a wonderful backdrop for her story with enough description to put a child right in the story. The characters are rich and recognizable as we all know people

just like that. There are lessons about avoiding dangers, bravery against bullies, about working together for the common good, diplomacy in negotiations with another species, and making a plan, even if it's sounds too scary to pull off. It has a great happy ending, as it should. As an added bonus, Ms. Hildahl has filled the book with her own whimsical illustrations that call out for crayons to color them in. A perfect book for grandmothers to have in their libraries.

Reviewed by Sandra Mason

Esther Hildahl's delightful story for children is full of adventure, and scary escapes. The pond dwellers work together to solve terrifying problems. Esther has created loveable and believable characters, while teaching important lessons to kids: Loyalty to friends, bravery in difficult times, and working together to solve big problems for tiny pond creatures. When all seems hopeless, Web hatches a plan.

Enter the Red Boat Kids, Alix, Tulip, Spike, Dooley, and Nat. These kids make the Herdmans look kind. Talk about terrible, these children are the *WORST!* Apparently their parents have never taught them manners or respect for people or the planet. They terrorize the creatures of Meadow Pond and annoy other humans.

When Hesper, the giant snake, who is determined to eat as many frogs and toads as he can appears, the peace and safety of Meadow Pond is at stake. Will Web and his friends be able to hatch a plan to stop Hesper, stymie the Red Boat Kids, and save the creatures of Meadow Pond?

This delightful book, creatively illustrated by the author, is a must for young adventurers, parents and grandparents who love to share a captivating story. I will happily present this book to my granddaughter for her birthday!



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