

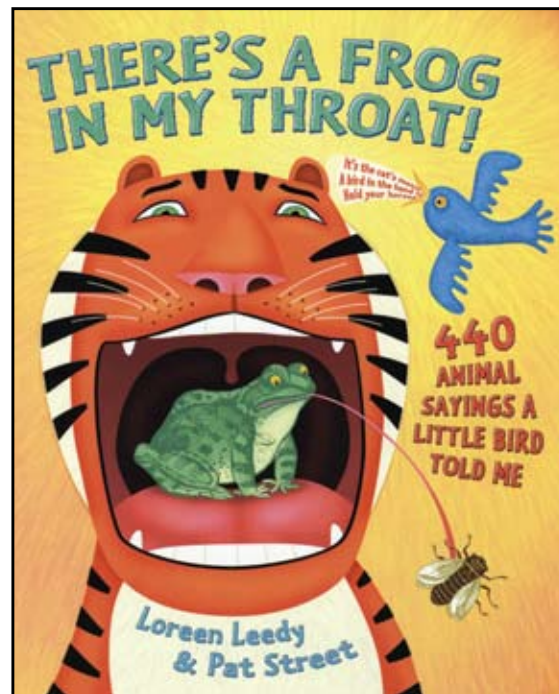
# THERE'S A FROG IN MY THROAT 440 Animal Sayings a Little Bird Told Me

by Loreen Leedy  
& Pat Street

Ages 6–10  
HC: 978-0-8234-1774-2  
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## ABOUT THE BOOK

This book is the cat's pajamas! You'll be bright eyed and bushy tailed when you've finished reading all these animal sayings. Simple definitions are paired with lively, detailed illustrations that help young readers understand the phrases. You'll be a hard dog to keep under the porch when you're done!



## QUESTIONS FOR THE CLASSROOM

- How do you think most of these sayings began?
- Describe an 800-pound gorilla. (Well, not a real one!)
- Which one is your favorite? Why?
- In what year will your parents have an empty nest?
- Give an example of something at school that shows “It’s a dog-eat-dog world.” Do you believe this to be true or not? Why?
- What makes you as “happy as a lark”?
- Describe someone who is chasing “his or her own tail” while trying to do homework.
- Have you ever felt “green around the gills”?
- Who is a “fat cat”? Who that you know has a cowlick?
- What do you like to “squirrel away”? Is there anything you’d like to “take a gander” at?

## ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

### LANGUAGE ARTS

Create new animal sayings for these common occurrences:

- lost something important
- thrilled with an event
- feeling dizzy
- worried
- someone who sleeps during the day
- someone who studies intensely
- moving very slowly
- divide the innocent from the guilty
- someone who always thinks he or she is right
- let’s discuss something important
- bad dancer
- loves to eat

Or

Write a short play with a small group or partners in which you try to use as many of the animal sayings as you can and still have it make sense. Act out your scenes for the class or create a video.

### ART

Create a diorama depicting a scene that illustrates one of the animal sayings. Use a shoe box to create your scene and any other materials from around the house—clay, dough, pipe cleaners, thread spools, recycled materials—that help you bring it to life.

Or

Using simple pop-up techniques, create cards or short books that illustrate several of your favorite animal sayings.

### MUSIC

**Sing this song to the tune of “Do Your Ears Hang Low?” Then try to make up new verses using the animal sayings from the book!**

*Are you barking up a tree?  
Will you never rat on me?  
Do you live high on the hog  
or lie just like a dog?  
Will it get your goat  
or put a frog in your throat?  
Don't worm it out of me!*

### About the Author and Illustrator

**Loreen Leedy** has written and illustrated more than thirty picture books, and is working on one right now in her studio in central Florida. Her most recent book is *Crazy Like a Fox: A Simile Story*. Visit her online at [www.loreenleedy.com](http://www.loreenleedy.com). Loreen's husband, Andrew Schuerger, is a scientist who works on space biology research at Kennedy Space Center. Their first collaboration is the book *Messages from Mars*.

After college, **Pat Street** became a copywriter for an advertising agency in New York City and started a collection of sayings and idioms to use in advertisements. Now she writes children's books and makes collages—both the cut-and-paste kind and the digital kind. She lives in Florida. Visit her online at [www.patstreet.com](http://www.patstreet.com).