

Robbit the Job-Hopping Frog

AUTHOR

MICHAEL GERARD BAUER

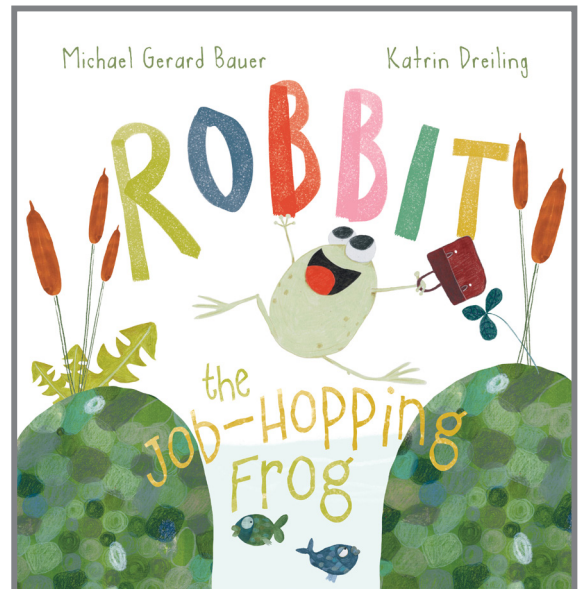
ILLUSTRATOR

KATRIN DREILING

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

*Robbit the frog hopped down from his log,
and popped into town in pursuit of a job.
But finding employment can be super tricky,
when you're tiny and green and a little bit sticky!*

A heart-warming and hilarious tale about courage, perseverance and never giving up on your dreams!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Gerard Bauer is a multi-award-winning author of books for children. His first novel, *The Running Man*, won the 2005 CBCA Book of the Year for Older Readers. *Don't Call Me Ishmael* won the 2008 SA Festival Award for Literature; the 2007 Children's Peace Prize; the Children's Book Council of Australia Junior Judges Award in 2007. His debut picture book *Rodney Loses It* won the 2018 CBCA Book of the Year Award, Early Childhood, and more recently, *The Things That Will Not Stand* won the prestigious Prime Minister's Literary Award, 2019. Michael lives in Brisbane.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Katrin Dreiling was born and raised in Germany, but has called Australia home for many years. Katrin's work is heavily influenced by the European children's literature she grew up with, and features a variety of media, textures and techniques. Katrin also teaches art to children, and conducts workshops for adults and children alike.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion might be:
 - What does it mean when we say someone is job-hopping?
 - Why is it funny to say a frog is job-hopping?
 - What can you see happening in the picture on the front cover?
 - What does the back cover show? Why do you think it might show this?
 - Where do you think the frog on the front cover is? What makes you think this?
 - What do you think is likely to happen in this story?
 - Who is likely to be the main character of this story?
 - Read the description of the story on the back cover of the book. What does this tell you about what is likely to happen?

- Why do you think the frog in this story might be called 'Robbit'? What are some other names that might be good for frogs to have?
 - Can you think of a name for a different animal that suits it as well as 'Robbit' suits a frog? Choose your favourite type of animal and paint a picture of it. Caption your picture with the best possible name that you can think of for your animal.
- On the first page, we learn that no-one called Robbit 'Bob'. Why might they have called him this? What are some other nicknames for Robbit (or 'Robert')? As a class, discuss how using a nickname can sometimes be a good thing, but how calling someone by a name they don't want to be called is a bad thing. Can you think of a nickname or shortening for your own name that absolutely no-one uses ever?
- Robbit heads into town in pursuit of a dream. What does it mean to be in pursuit of something? How could someone be in pursuit of a dream? Can you think of some synonyms or other ways of saying in pursuit?
- Robbit tells his family 'you never know what you can do till you try.' Do you think that this is true? Why/why not? Can you think of something that you, or someone you know, thought you couldn't do, but when you tried you managed to anyway? As a class, discuss all the times that you have tried something that seemed difficult or too scary, and succeeded.
 - Can you think of someone famous who tried and succeeded when absolutely no-one thought that they could? (Hint: which Australian won the 1000m speed-skating gold medal at the 2002 Olympics, and how many people thought that he could do this?)
- What do you think the wisest thing Robbit says or does in the story is?
- Why do you think Robbit wants a job?
- When Robbit investigated the job as a bank teller, he found out that it was not the sort of bank that he had been expecting. (River) bank, and (savings and loan) bank are two words with very different meanings, that sound exactly the same, they are called homonyms. When two or more words with different meanings sound the same, but with different spelling, they are called homophones. What are some other homophones or homonyms that you know of?
- As a class, make a list of as many different sets of homophones and homonyms as you can think of. In pairs, choose one of the sets of words you have thought of, and have each member of the pair illustrate one of the meanings of your word pair. If there are three or more words in your set, such as with saw, saw, and sore, you will need to work in a small group so that everyone illustrates just one meaning.
 - Caption your illustration with the relevant word, being sure to check that you have the correct spelling, and mount your illustrations next to each other on the classroom wall for everyone to read and view.
- When Robbit says that he gets all of his 'own food every day' what types of food is he talking about? How would your family react if someone served them the meal that Robbit cooked? Can you think of a meal that might look a little bit like what Robbit served, but would be seen as edible by humans? Is it something that you think would actually taste good, or just better than flies and worms and insects? Draw a picture of a meal that an animal other than a frog might serve to a human if they tried to work as a home cook the way that Robbit did. Think about what your chosen animal eats, where they find it, and what it would look like.
- When Robbit believes that 'half-full was his cup', what does this say about him and his attitude towards life? What well known saying or phrase is this referencing, and what are the alternatives to believing that the cup is half-full the way Robbit does? Draw a picture of a cup, glass, or mug that is half-full, and write a caption for your picture that talks about at least one of the ways that having a half-full cup can be a good thing.
- What do you think the moral of this story is? Draw or paint a picture of your favourite scene from the story, and caption it with your chosen moral.
- Make a hopping frog from cardboard. You can search and follow an online tutorial for an origami frog.

AUTHOR OF NOTES

RAE CARLYLE