



Duck for President Teacher's Guide



My fellow Americans:

It is our pleasure, our honor, our duty as citizens to present to you Duck for President. Here is a duck who began in a humble pond. Who worked his way to farmer. To governor. And now, perhaps, to the highest office in the land.

You may think you know Duck from *Click, Clack, Moo. Or Giggle, Giggle, Quack*. But there's more to Duck. Much, much more.

Some say, if he walks like a duck and talks like a duck, he is a duck.

We say, if he walks like a duck and talks like a duck, he will be the next president of the United States of America.

Thank you for your vote.





Discussion Questions



1. Before you read *Duck for President*, ask your students if they've ever met Duck before. Duck played a prominent role in the books *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* and *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*. Talk about the character of Duck. What do they remember about him?
2. Duck is not happy with the chores at the farm so he decides to hold an election to unseat Farmer Brown. Discuss elections with your class. What is an election? Why are elections held? What are Duck's motives for holding the election?
3. Duck wins the farm election by quite a few votes, even after Farmer Brown demands a recount. Thinking about the animals on the farm, which do your students believe voted for Farmer Brown? Which do they think voted for Duck? Who would they vote for if they were an animal on the farm?
4. Duck realizes that "running a farm is no fun at all"! Ask your students why they think Duck thought being in charge of the farm would be easier than just doing his three chores a day? Why do they think Farmer Brown gave Duck more chores than the rest of the farm animals?
5. After winning the farm election, Duck sets his sights on becoming governor of his state . . . and eventually runs for the president of the United States! Ask your students if they know the name of both the governor of your state and the president of the United States. What does a governor do? What does a president do? How is a governor different from a president?
6. Duck and his staff work on his campaigns for governor and president, and Duck sets out on the campaign trail. Discuss campaigns with your students. What is a campaign? Who works on a campaign? What are some of the things Duck and his staff have to do in order to get Duck elected? Is there an actual "trail" in a campaign trail?
7. After finishing their jobs each day, Farmer Brown and Duck are covered in lots of stuff from head to toe. Reread the sections of the book that describes what they are covered in. What are Farmer Brown and Duck doing to get covered in all of this stuff? What's the one thing both Duck and Farmer Brown are covered in at the end of the day?
8. Were your students surprised to find out that the vice president voted for Duck instead of the president during the presidential election? What is the role of the vice president? Why do they think this vice president voted for Duck?
9. Despite the fact that Duck wins the presidential election, he is still not satisfied! He declares that "running a country is no fun at all" and checks the help wanted ads. Why does Duck want to return to the farm? What changes when Duck arrives back at the farm? And what has Duck learned by the end of the story?
10. The last page of the book shows Duck writing his autobiography. Have any of your students ever written an autobiography? Discuss how an autobiography is different from a biography.
11. What if Duck never held his first election at the farm? What would have happened? Discuss with your class the different ways Duck could have dealt with his problems without holding an election.
12. Do your students think a duck could ever be president of the United States? Why or why not?



Research & Activities



1. Initiate an election in your classroom! Choose two candidates for a class mascot. Then have your students conduct voter registration, make campaign posters for each candidate, and decorate a ballot box. Select a day as Election Day and ask each student to vote for their favorite mascot. Reveal the outcome on a bulletin board or chalkboard!
2. To find out more about Election Day, take your class on a trip to the school library to do some research. Once you've done the research, have your class answer these questions: When does Election Day take place? When was the first Election Day held? Does it happen every year? Are elections held on days other than Election Day?
3. Make a campaign poster for Duck! There are a lot of examples of campaign posters for Duck throughout *Duck for President*. What can your students come up with as a new campaign slogan for Duck? Display the finished posters throughout your room.
4. Have your students research your local government. Who is in charge of your town? Have your class select a local politician to learn more about. Invite this politician to your class to give a talk about their job.
5. Begin a discussion with your students about the upcoming presidential election. Talk about the candidates. Where are they from? Why have they decided to run for president of the United States? How often is the presidential election held in the United States?
6. Have your students talk to their parents or grandparents about voting. What are the requirements to vote? Does everybody vote all the time? How old do you have to be to vote? If possible, arrange for your students to visit a voting booth to experience the voting process firsthand.
7. Like Duck, your students can also write an autobiography! Older students can write one independently, while younger students can dictate to a parent or caregiver. When they are finished, share your students' autobiographies with the class. Why do people write autobiographies?





A conversation with Duck, Presidential candidate

Q: Duck, how did you begin your career on Farmer Brown's farm?

A: As an egg; then I moved up.

Q: Duck, *Click, Clack, Moo* received the Caldecott Honor and was a *New York Times* best-seller. Have you won any awards on the farm?

A: Best-Looking and Most Likely to Be Arrested.

Q: Duck, when we first met you in *Click, Clack, Moo*, you used a typewriter. In *Giggle, Giggle, Quack* you relied on a pencil and in *Duck for President* you use a computer to type your autobiography. Which do you prefer? Do you surf the Internet?

A: I'd prefer a wi-fi laptop, but I haven't been able to convince the boss yet. I used to surf the Net, but Farmer Brown pulled the plug after I ordered 100 copies of *Animal Farm*.

Q: Duck, what is your favorite vacation spot?

A: Cabo San Lucas. Fun, sun, and deep-sea fishing.

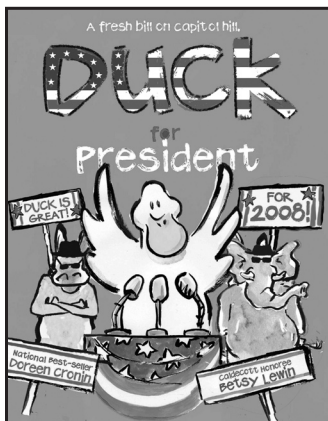
Q: Duck, have you always had political aspirations?

A: Doesn't everybody?

About the Author and Illustrator

Doreen Cronin is the successful author of many bestselling picture books, including *Bounce*; *Wiggle*; *Duck for President*; *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*; *Dooby Dooby Moo*; and the Caldecott Honor Book *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband, Andrew, and their daughters, Julia and Abigail.

Betsy Lewin is the Caldecott Honor-winning illustrator of *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* and its sequels, *Giggle, Giggle, Quack* and *Duck for President*, in addition to a number of other picture books, including *So, What's It Like to Be a Cat?* and *Two eggs, please*. Betsy Lewin lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband, Ted, and their cat.



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