

PLAY 1: Life in a Pond

Readers:

Frog

Newt

Stickleback

Great Diving Beetle

Snail

Dragonfly

Frog: I'm here for my springtime spawning!

Newt: Like me! Just finished my winter hibernation. Now its time for my eggs

Frog: Then tadpoles!

Newt: Then mini newts!

Frog: Or froglets!

Newt: Then its farewell to the pond for another year!

Stickleback: What a strange double-life these amphibians lead. Splashing around with us in the pond one minute, then leaping off overland the next! I'm sure *I'd* find that *most* confusing!

Snail: I'd suggest that's the least of *your* worries. Watch out for that Great Diving Beetle!

Beetle: Who? Me?

Frog: Yes, *you've* got some *very* nasty eating habits. Nothing's safe from *you*, especially my tadpoles!

Stickleback: And he's even prepared to make a meal out of me!

Newt: And watch out! That mini-helicopter (pointing to dragonfly) hovering over us may not look very dangerous – but its young or nymphs *certainly* are! *They'll* eat tadpoles and fish *too*!

Frog: Nasty vicious beasts of the pond!

Dragonfly: But not as nasty as that toxic substance I see making its way, right now, towards our pond! It's pure *poison* to the likes of us. Best run whilst you can!

Snail: What *is* he talking about? *Poison* indeed! Where on earth *from*?

Dragonfly: From the fields, around us. Those fertilizers and insecticides might help the *farmer's* crop, but they'll be the end of *us*!

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