



Which Words?

CHANGE AND COLLABORATION



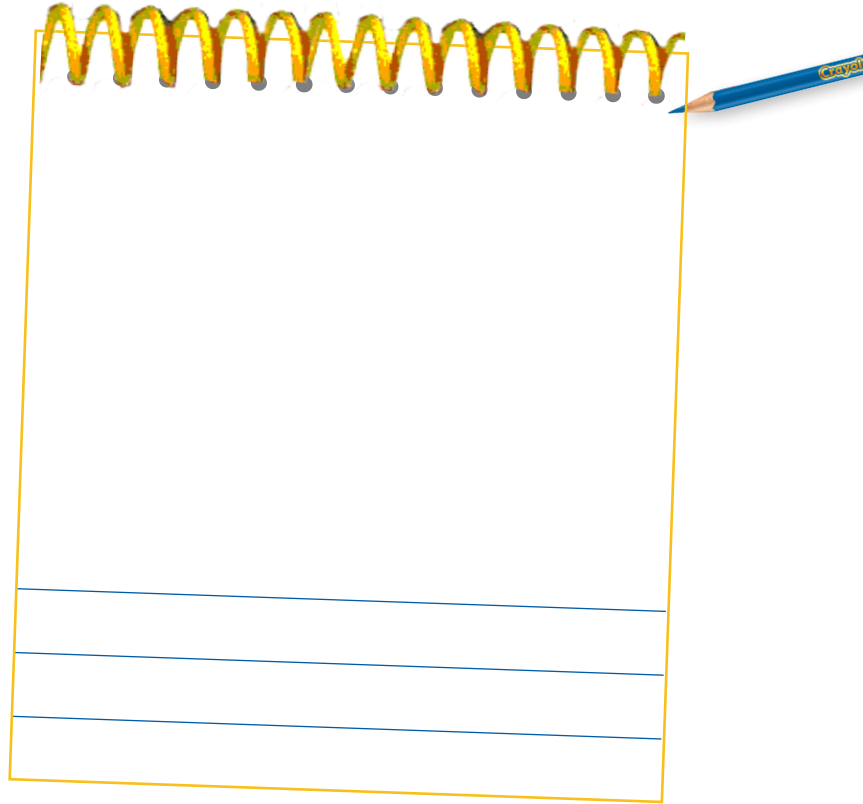
RESPOND to the words that authors Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver intentionally use in *Detective Duck: The Case of the Missing Tadpole* to introduce the characters, give each a name and personality, and describe the environment and the problems that emerge. Some of their word choices are seriously funny while others paint a frightening picture. Do you remember when McBeaver said, “Your breath smells like old turtle poop”? Or how the authors described the Franny’s Café specialty dish of stewed mosquito wings with a side of flies? (Sounds like a side of fries, but consider how different it would taste!) Words can add humor to any topic, even dental health and nutrition.



CONNECT several of your classmates’ writing styles to a topic that is important, such as changing the way we treat the environment. Form a small team and collaboratively brainstorm ideas to explore, such as how algae threaten a healthy pond or how chemical runoff pollutes fresh water streams. Ask each team member to thoughtfully select words that would make a scene come alive. In the story, characters saw an “underwater forest of blue-green plants so thick that they could hardly swim or breathe.” They described a metal pipe leaking runoff water “so full of chemicals including pesticides and fertilizers that it caused thick blue-green algae to bloom and invade the pond.”



CREATE an illustrated scene using words to describe something that is seriously funny or filled with drama and images that represent those words. Would your characters huddle closely and whimper in fear? Would they stand tall and release piercing screams filled with frustration?



Algae is ruining our pond.



PRESENT your written description and illustration to members of your team. Compare the writers’ styles. How did everyone intentionally select words and draw an image that brought a scene to life?

Note for teachers and parents:

For more creative inspiration and hands-on explorations go to [Crayola.com/CreativityWeek](https://www.crayola.com/CreativityWeek)
To share student artwork on social media please post using #CrayolaCreativityWeek



Detective Duck: The Case of the Missing Tadpole
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Imagination in Action
Thinking Sheet