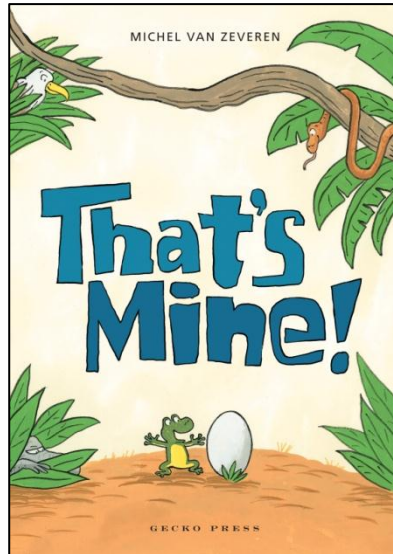




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## Teaching Notes: *That's Mine!*

by Michel Van Zeveren



### Synopsis

In the jungle, a little frog finds an egg. “That’s mine!” he says. But the snake wants his egg, and so does the eagle, and so does the lizard. Only when an angry elephant gets involved is the egg given back to the frog. The delight in being announced the rightful owner quickly disappears when the egg hatches and the frog is faced with a big surprise!

### The Author/Illustrator

Michel van Zeveren was born in Belgium in 1970. He studied animation (wanting to be the next Walt Disney) before discovering the joys of children’s book illustrating. He lives in Brussels, Belgium, with his wife and daughter.

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## Themes

This simple and humorous picture book has several themes. These include the concepts of ownership and possession. When the frog finds an egg he claims ownership of it, however he must then compete for possession with several other bigger contenders who also feel they have the right to own the egg.

The themes of desire, competition and power are also explored as the other animals' desire to get the egg embroil them all in a fight for possession. It is only when the most powerful animal becomes involved that the argument is rightly or wrongly resolved.

The final theme of the book introduces the concept of irony which is illustrated when the frog discovers that the egg he had so desperately coveted contains an animal that also shares a desire for possession.

## Activities

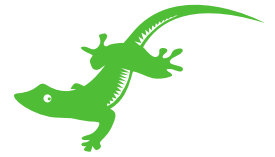
1. Look at the cover image and title. What do you think this story might be about and where might it be set?
2. Other than the frog, list all the other animals found in the book that want the egg? Why do you think the author chose these animals? What characteristics do they have in common? Why do you think they all want the egg? Choose one of the animals. Re-write the story from its point of view and illustrate your own picture book about it.

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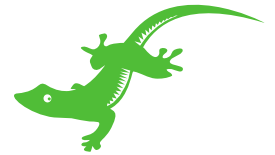
3. Exclamation marks, contractions, speech marks, ellipses, full stops, and commas are all types of punctuation that are found in the book. Find and list an example of each from the book as well as their grammatical purpose.
4. Look at the illustration of when the elephant gives the egg to the frog. Carefully study each of the animals and their expressions. What range of emotions is evident? How has the illustrator achieved these feelings in the illustration? (Think about colour, size, composition, etc). Draw your own picture that expresses another emotion, such as sadness, anger, or love.
5. The book has a 'twist' to the ending. In pairs, discuss what a 'twist' ending might mean and what the 'twist' ending in this book is. Do you think it was funny, clever, a surprise, etc? Why or why not?
6. The action of this book takes place in a jungle. Locate a jungle in the world to research. Investigate its location, climate, animals, plants, how travellers get to it and what they might see, etc. Present your findings to your class.
7. What do the stars around the elephant's head symbolise? Think of and draw ten other pictures that each symbolise an emotion.
8. The author uses onomatopoeia. Onomatopoeia is a word which imitates a noise or action. Find examples from the book.

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9. Examine the illustrations in the book. What attracts your attention to a particular picture? What colours are used? What kind of lines and textures are used? Do you like the style? Do the pictures mirror the text or go beyond what the story tells you? Which is your favourite picture and why? Choose your favourite illustration from the book and create your own artistic interpretation of it. For example, a diorama, painting, model, poem, etc.
10. In groups, adapt the book for a performance in your classroom. Devise a script and create costumes to represent each animal. Act your adaptation out for your class. If you have access to a video camera, tape it.
11. In pairs, take turns to read the book aloud to one another.
12. Review the book for your favourite magazine or website. Give it a rating using stars or a number out of ten.

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