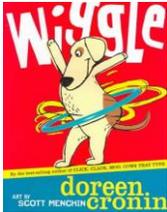




**Doreen Cronin
Featured Illustrator
Read-Aloud Outline**

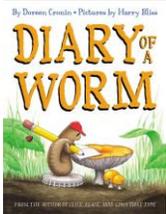
Doreen Cronin's animal characters are charming and literate! Ducks, cows, even worms can communicate. They write about their lives, ask for special treats and try to help others. Looking at life from their perspective is lots of fun.



Wiggle

Ages 2 to 4

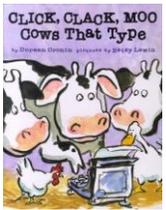
For energetic little kids, here's a book that invites them to wiggle along with the story. Told in rollicking rhyme, this book begs to be read again and again. And if they like *Wiggle*, try *Bounce* and *Stretch*, also by Cronin.



Diary of a Worm

Ages 4 and up

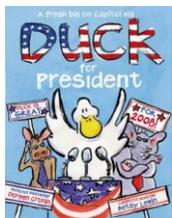
A worm's diary includes mementos, pictures of his family and friends, and descriptions of his daily adventures. Pair it with Cronin's equally amusing *Diary of a Fly* and *Diary of a Spider* for two more perspectives on daily life.



Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type

Ages 5 to 10

Farmer Brown has a problem. His animals are unhappy and are making demands. . . . in writing. When the cows start typing, milk and egg production stop, and things get crazy down on the farm. The hilarity continues in three more books: 1) *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*, 2) *Thump, Quack, Moo*, and 3) *Dooby, Dooby, Moo*.



Duck for President* and *Vote for Duck

Ages 5 to 10

Meet Duck. He's running for president. He is not "right wing" or "left wing." He just wants to serve all. This picture book provides a funny way to learn about elections and about the duties of a citizen.

More books by Doreen Cronin

Rescue Bunnies

Ages 4 to 8

M.O.M.* (Mom Operating Manual)

Ages 4 to 8

The Trouble with Chickens

Ages 7 to 9

The Legend of Diamond Lil

Ages 7 to 9

Activities

1. If you read the *Diary of a . . .* books, provide paper, pencils and markers for the kids, so they can write and illustrate a page of their own diary. For example, “Diary of a Mitten” could include getting put on the wrong hand, getting wet from the snow or hanging out in a pocket or in a cubbie at school. Or if a child is writing as a worm, spider or fly, and he needs some inspiration, ask this question: How would Worm, Spider or Fly describe coming to our Read-Aloud?
2. If you read *Wiggle, Bounce* or *Stretch*, do the Hokey Pokey.
3. If you read *Click Clack Moo* or Cronin’s other books about farm animals, sing “Old McDonald Had a Farm” with the little kids. Bring craft supplies, and encourage the kids to make their favorite farm animals. The following website provides some good ideas: <http://funhandprintart.blogspot.com/2012/08/farm-animal-crafts-made-with-handprint.html>.
4. If you read *Duck for President*, hold an election. Get the children to vote on their favorite color, ice cream flavor, or a potential Read-Aloud theme or snack. Pass out ballots for each topic. Tally the votes, and announce a winner.

Conversation starters

1. Look at Ms. Cronin’s website and read the About Me section and the FAQs (<http://www.doreencronin.com/about-me.html>). Tell the kids about the teacher who inspired her to write and ask them if they could do anything as a grown-up, what would it be?
2. Nearly all of Ms. Cronin’s books are told from the point of view of an animal, insect or spider. Ask the kids why they think she likes to write this way, and ask which animal, insect or spider they would choose if they had to choose a nonhuman to write as.
3. Ms. Cronin has worked with several different illustrators. Show the kids some of her books illustrated by different artists and let them react. How does the style of illustration fit the story?