



GATOR, GATOR, GATOR!

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Put on your life jacket, hop in the boat, and raise your binoculars—it's time to go on an adventure!

Off you go, peering through the lush landscapes, looking for that gator! But each time you think you see it? Oops! Just a fox. Or some ducks! Or a snake. Maybe you'll never find the gator, gator, gator . . .

STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

- **SIMPLY SIMILES:** After you read the story aloud, discuss the similes that the author uses (e.g., “His skin’s like nails” “His temper’s hot like sauce” and “He is silent like a secret”). Explain what a simile is, and then ask the children to think of other similes. List them on a chart, and then have the children choose one to record and illustrate.

- **DOWN THE BAYOU:** Define “bayou” for the children and discuss where you would find a bayou (e.g., Louisiana, Texas). Ask the children to describe the bayou in this story. What does it look like? What animals live there? As a group, create a mural depicting the bayou. Include the water, plant life, and animals. This can be drawn, painted, or designed as a collage.

- **ALL ABOUT ALLIGATORS:** The little girl in this story is searching for an alligator. As a group (for younger children) or individually (for older children), research alligators using the internet or nonfiction books. Create a chart of facts. Then have the children choose one of the facts to write and illustrate on a poster. Older children can write an informational report about the alligator using their research.

- **GATOR GAMES:** This story can be a great springboard for movement activities. After reading the book, play a hide-and-seek game in which the children pretend to be the animals hiding along the bayou (e.g., gator, fox, snake, rat, duck). Have two other children pretend to be the girl and her friend from the story and search for their hidden friends. The game ends when the seekers find the hidden gator. You can also play a tag game in which a few children are the “gators” and they try to tag as many children as they can.

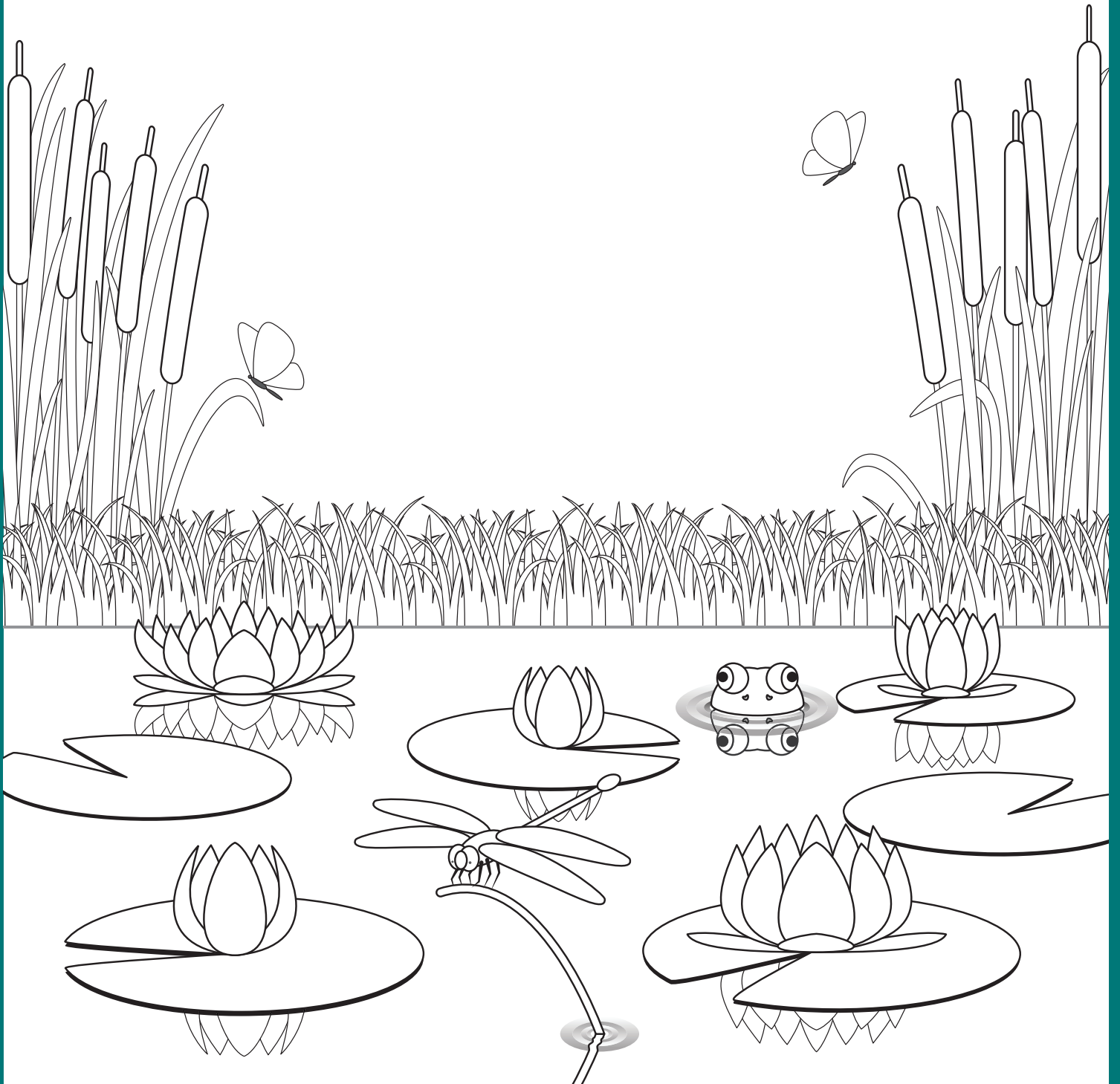
- **HAVE A GOOD TRIP!:** In this story, the little girl asks a friend to join her on a boat ride to search for gators. Have the children choose a friend in the group and imagine a trip that they wish they could take together. Where would they go? What would they do? Have them write a story about their trip.





COLOR THE BAYOU

Create your own bayou by coloring in the scene below.
Don't forget to add a gator!





TRACE THE LETTERS

Using a pencil, trace the letters of the words below.
You're becoming a great writer!

Gator

Swamp

Friend

Boat

Bayou

