

Diary of a Worm

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written by **Doreen Cronin**  
illustrated by **Harry Bliss**  
**HarperCollins, 2003**

If you loved her book, *Click, Clack, Moo, Cows That Type*, prepare to love this book by Doreen Cronin even more! I don't know when I've laughed so hard at a picture book! Follow a charming, typical boy-like worm as he writes in his diary daily. Watch as he tortures his older sister, taunting her with the fact that "no matter how long you look in the mirror, your face will always look just like your rear end!" His best friend roars with laughter over that comment, but worm's mom doesn't appreciate the humor at all! Follow the worms to the school dance where they do the Hockey Pokey—"We put our heads in and took our heads out...And that's all we could do!" Don't miss a picture in this book—even those within the front and back covers of the book will have you in stitches! This is a book you'll wish wouldn't end so quickly!

### **Self-Selected Reading Block**

This book would make a wonderful read-aloud as well as a great addition to the SSR baskets for primary and intermediate students. You'll definitely lose the full effect of the book unless you can share each and every adorable picture.

### **Writing Block**

This book has an obvious connection to writing—journals, lists, reflections, and observations. Worm enjoys writing about life from his perspective but also enjoys making lists of things—what he likes and doesn't like, when not to bother his father, etc. This worm writes with voice—or personality, too, which is what we want our students to achieve in their writing.

### **Research**

This book might be a good one to use as a springboard for inquiry: Do worms dig deeper in the earth during certain seasons? Why do worms come out of the earth after much rain? What exactly do worms contribute to the earth? Are there male and female worms? Do worms have family units like the ones in the book? There are many questions students might have after reading this book. This would make a great connection from fiction to non-fiction exploration!

### **Science**

The book makes a nice connection to lifecycles and the grand plan of how we all contribute to the earth. On the final page, worm reminds us that even though worms are small and most people forget that they even exist—the earth never forgets! Many of the pages allow for discussion and exploration of science topics.

***Diary of a Worm* is a real treasure! This might even be the perfect holiday gift idea for your favorite teacher-friend!**