

Book Review



Title: Leroy, the Little Frog with a Big Heart
Author: Lindy Whale
Recommended for ages: ~3-8

Why This Story Matters for Children with Dwarfism

Inspired by the author's grandson, born with cartilage-hair hypoplasia, Leroy is a tenderly crafted picture book about embracing difference, challenge, and courage.

Story Highlights

- Leroy is a joyful, “happy-go-lucky” frog who lives with his loving parents and two sisters—confident and content until school begins.
- At school, being smaller than other frogs becomes noticeable. Leroy feels awkward during group activities and playground games, reflecting the early experiences many children with dwarfism face.
- A turning point arrives when a kind classmate or teacher sees Leroy beyond size, offering gestures of friendship that help him feel valued and included—a beautiful moment of affirmation.
- The visuals feature everyday accommodations—like Leroy using a stool—that subtly convey the normalcy of adaptation with warmth and simplicity.

Themes That Resonate

- Belonging vs. difference: Accepting uniqueness and finding a place in peer life.
- Real emotions met with reassurance: Addressing insecure feelings like sadness or exclusion, while centering self-worth.
- Empathy in action: Simple kindness and small accommodations demonstrate inclusion without fanfare.

Parenting & Teaching Value

- Acts as both a mirror—for children with dwarfism to see their feelings reflected—and a window—for siblings, peers, and educators to see their world.
- Ideal for shared reading times, especially bedtime or daily story routines.
- Sparks opportunities for discussion: how to ask for help, build self-worth, and show kindness in small, everyday ways.

Summary

Leroy, the Little Frog with a Big Heart is a gentle and affirming read that beautifully captures the emotional journey of being smaller in a world built for bigger. Its bright illustrations, relatable situations, and heartfelt narrative make it a valuable addition to any family bookshelf—especially those within the SSPA community seeking meaningful and inclusive literature.

Book can be purchased direct for \$15 from the author at <https://www.whaletales.au/shop>