

Friends and Foes

Written and Illustrated By: Douglas Florian

Synopsis: Friends come in all shapes and sizes and friendship can have both ups and downs. This collection of poems explores many different aspects of being and having friends.

Suggested Reading Date: Start of the Year, April – National Poetry Month,

Activity Descriptions:

- Share poems as discussions about friendship, either targeted for specific needs or as a general discussion
- Share a poem a week as a class starter
- Have students pick a poem to read, practice and perform (there are 25 and three are poems for two voices.)
- Look at poetry conventions such as repetition, alliteration, rhythm and rhyme
- Have students create and illustrate their own poem
- Use as part of a Douglas Florian poet/artist study
- Present and then practice them as a class choral reading.

Related Websites:

- Douglas Florian Artwork - <https://www.douglasflorian.com/Drawings/i-fwfzmqv>
- Poetry Foundation biography - <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/douglas-florian>
- Douglas Florian Publisher page. Includes projectable images of a selection of poems from Friends and Foes - <https://www.simonandschuster.com/authors/Douglas-Florian/49418826>
- Interview with Florian about his poetry and Paintings (includes a link to a video of him reading one of the poems from *Friends and Foes* <https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2018/09/poems-and-painting-by-douglas-florian/>

Text to Text Connections: If you like this book, you might also want to use:

Other poetry books by Florian or others, or a friendship story like - Shawn Loves Sharks, Stick and Stone, Nerdy Bird, Maddie's Fridge

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