# Graphic Biographies

I am so excited to be bringing you this Graphic Biography resource!

Kids LOVE graphic novels...so the team at Out of This World Literacy got together to bring teachers and students Graphic Biographies!

There are countless ways to use the Graphic Biography and 35 support pages included. Here are just a few ideas...

- Guided Reading (complete lesson included)
- Whole group read aloud
- Reading center activities
- Partner reading
- Literature Circle
- Independent Reading Fun

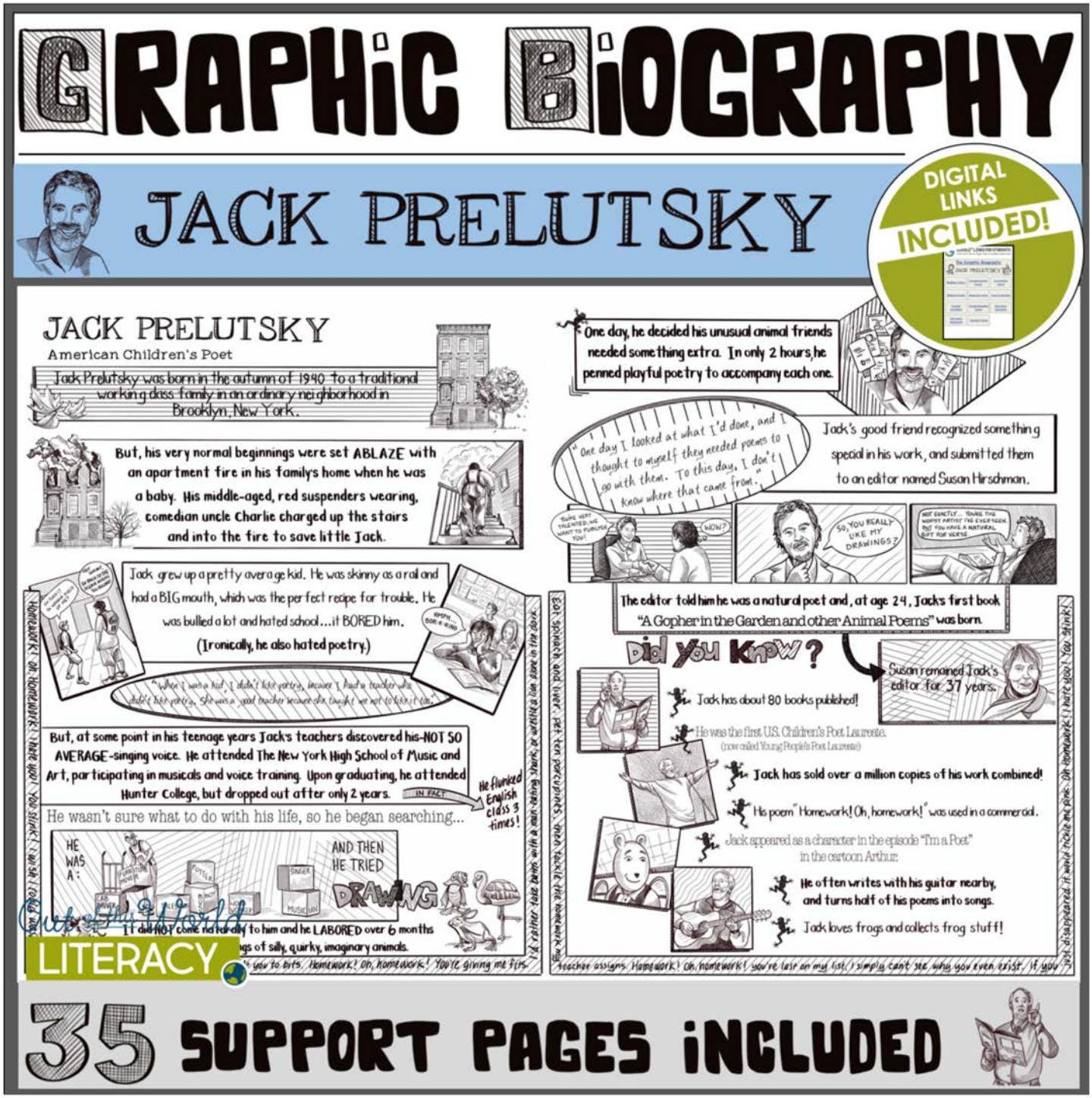
## What Is Included:

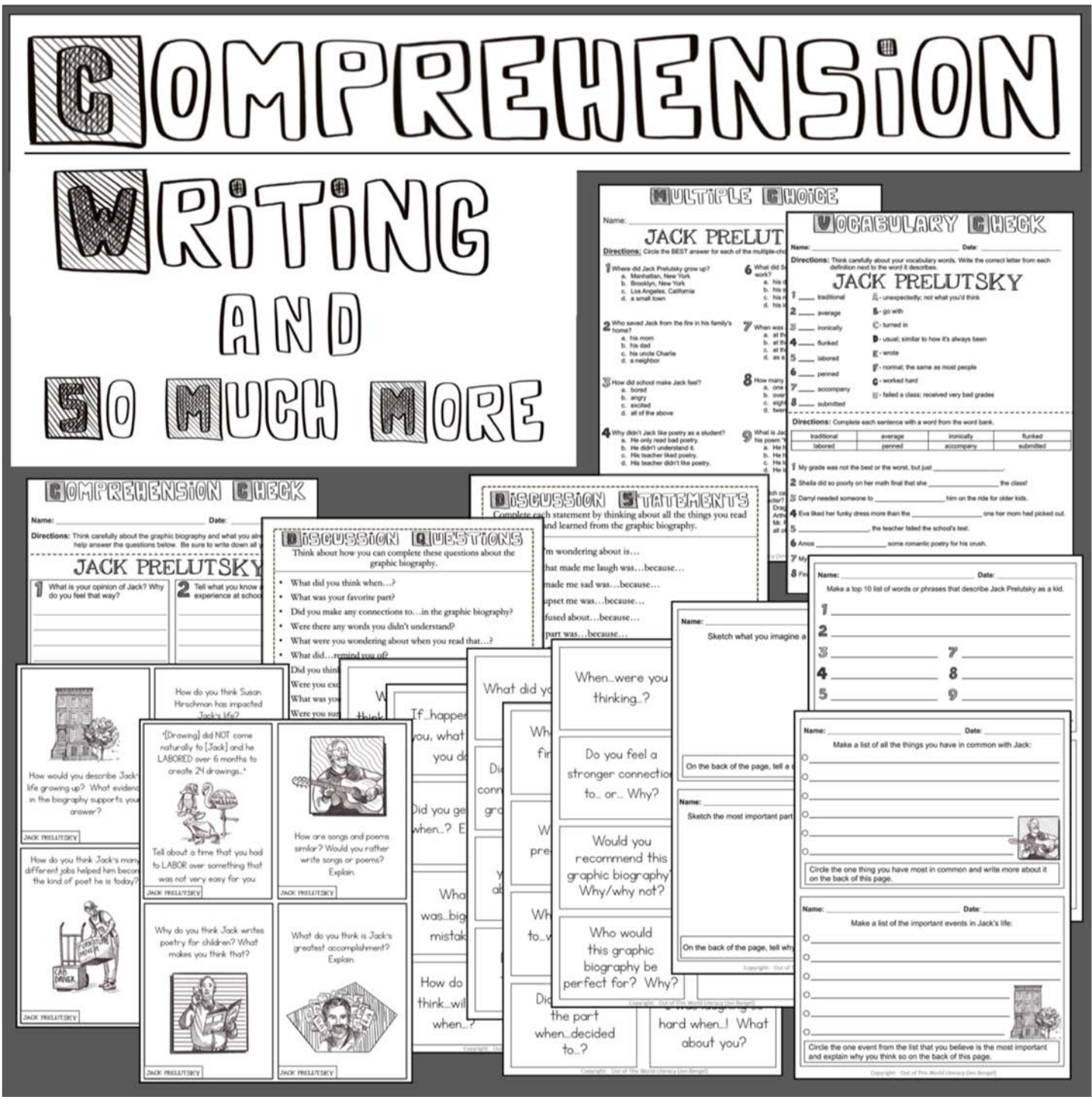
1. 2-page Graphic Biography with custom illustrations by Andrea Bufford.
2. Google Digital Versions!
3. Answer Keys
4. 3 Comprehension and Vocabulary student pages
5. 6 Writing Prompts
6. 3 Response Forms for After Reading
7. Step-by-Step How to Draw: Jack Prelutsky and Frog
8. 6 Blank Graphic Template Pages for Students to Create their Own Graphic Stories
9. COMPLETE Guided Reading Lesson with Comprehension Check and 5 Teacher Planning Pages
10. 21 Open-ended Discussion Questions to Ask Students After Reading.
11. 19 Open-ended Discussion Statements for Students to Answer After Reading
12. 8 Specific Question Cards with Custom Graphics
13. 44 Open-Ended Discussion Question Cards

**Thank you so much to these amazing artists, whose work is found in this resource!**







GRAPHIC BIOGRAPHY
JACK PRELUTSKY
DIGITAL LINKS INCLUDED!
JACK PRELUTSKY
American Children's Poet
Jack Prelutsky was born in the autumn of 1940 to a traditional working class family in an ordinary neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York.
But, his very normal beginnings were set ABLAZE with an apartment fire in his family's home when he was a baby. His middle-aged, red suspenders wearing, comedian uncle Charlie charged up the stairs and into the fire to save little Jack.
Jack grew up a pretty average kid. He was skinny as a rail and had a BIG mouth, which was the perfect recipe for trouble. He was bullied a lot and hated school...it BORED him. (Ironically, he also hated poetry.)
"When I was a kid, I didn't like poetry, because I had a teacher who didn't like poetry. She was a good teacher because she taught me not to like it too."
But, at some point in his teenage years Jack's teachers discovered his-NOT SO AVERAGE-singing voice. He attended The New York High School of Music and Art, participating in musicals and voice training. Upon graduating, he attended Hunter College, but dropped out after only 2 years.
IN FACT
He flunked English class 3 times!
He wasn't sure what to do with his life, so he began searching...
HE WAS A:
AND THEN HE TRIED
DRAWING
It did NOT come naturally to him and he LABORED over 6 months
...gs of silly, quirky, imaginary animals.
...you to bits. Homework! Oh, homework! You're giving me fits.
Homework! Oh, homework! I hate you! You stink! I wish I could wash
I'd rather take baths with a man-eating shark, or wrestle a lion alone in the dark.
Eat spinach and liver, pet ten porcupines, then tackle the homework my
One day, he decided his unusual animal friends needed something extra. In only 2 hours, he penned playful poetry to accompany each one.
"One day I looked at what I'd done, and I thought to myself they needed poems to go with them. To this day, I don't know where that came from."
Jack's good friend recognized something special in his work, and submitted them to an editor named Susan Hirschman.
YOU'RE VERY TALENTED, WE WANT TO PUBLISH YOU!
WOW?
SO, YOU REALLY LIKE MY DRAWINGS?
NOT EXACTLY... YOU'RE THE WORST ARTIST I'VE EVER SEEN BUT YOU HAVE A NATURAL GIFT FOR VERSE.
The editor told him he was a natural poet and, at age 24, Jack's first book "A Gopher in the Garden and other Animal Poems" was born.
Did You Know?
Susan remained Jack's editor for 37 years.
Jack has about 80 books published!
He was the first U.S. Children's Poet Laureate.
(now called Young People's Poet Laureate)
Jack has sold over a million copies of his work combined!
His poem "Homework! Oh, homework!" was used in a commercial.
Jack appeared as a character in the episode "I'm a Poet" in the cartoon Arthur.
He often writes with his guitar nearby, and turns half of his poems into songs.
Jack loves frogs and collects frog stuff!
teacher assigns. Homework! Oh, homework! you're last on my list. I simply can't see why you even exist. If you
Just disappeared, it would tickle me pink. Oh, homework! I hate you! You stink!
LITERACY
35 SUPPORT PAGES INCLUDED


COMPREHENSION
WRITING
AND
SO MUCH MORE
MULTIPLE CHOICE
JACK PRELUT
VOCABULARY CHECK
JACK PRELUTSKY
COMPREHENSION CHECK
JACK PRELUTSKY
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Think about how you can complete these questions about the graphic biography.
What did you think when…?
What was your favorite part?
Did you make any connections to…in the graphic biography?
Were there any words you didn't understand?
What were you wondering about when you read that…?
DISCUSSION STATEMENTS
Make a top 10 list of words or phrases that describe Jack Prelutsky as a kid.
Make a list of all the things you have in common with Jack:
Make a list of the important events in Jack's life:
How do you think Susan Hirschman has impacted Jack's life?
How are songs and poems similar? Would you rather write songs or poems? Explain.
Why do you think Jack writes poetry for children? What makes you think that?
What do you think is Jack's greatest accomplishment? Explain.
When…were you thinking…?
Do you feel a stronger connection to… or… Why?
Would you recommend this graphic biography? Why/why not?
Who would this graphic biography be perfect for? Why?
Sketch what you imagine a
Sketch the most important part
Circle the one thing you have most in common and write more about it on the back of this page.
Circle the one event from the list that you believe is the most important and explain why you think so on the back of this page.

# GUIDED READING

Out of this World LITERACY

## GUIDED READING LESSON

JACK PRELUTSKY



**Quick Notes Guide:** Use the scale to quickly take notes as you work through the different parts of the lesson.

1 *(no response or incorrect)* 2 *(Partial)* 3 *(Satisfactory)* 4 *(Above Average)*

| Group members | Before Reading | During Reading | After Reading |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

**Step 1.** The Intro.

*Use as a guide to start your introduction:*
"Today we are going to read a biography about a poet named Jack Prelutsky. The format of the story is like a graphic novel. The graphic pictures in the biography will help us learn more about Jack's life. As we read, let's pay close attention to the illustrations to help us with our reading comprehension. Let's read to find out about Jack's life and how he changed from poetry hater to poetry writer!"

**Step 2.** Read the Text.

*How will the group read the text? (Circle One)*
Teacher read · Choral read · Silent read · Partner read · Echo read · Other: _____

*Reteach and Refocus (keep track of which students you are reading with)*
Student: _____
Student: _____

OR...

*Running Record (Note Details Below)*

**Step 3.** Share Your Thinking.

**1:** What is the first thing you are thinking after reading? Tell me more.

**2:** Which part of the graphic biography did you like best? Why was that your favorite part?

**3:** What is your opinion of Jack Prelutsky? Share reasons for your opinion.

**Step 4.** Direct Text Questions.

**1:** Look on page 1. What life events impacted Jack the most? Share your thoughts.

**2:** What is a poet? How did Jack become a poet?

**3:** Look on page 2. Retell what Jack has accomplished and what he enjoys.

**Step 5.** Targeted Word Study.

*y says /ɛ/*
ordinary · naturally · family · quirky · skinny · imaginary · poetry · silly · only · simply

*Recreate the chart for word Study activity.*

| | Meaning in Text |
|---|---|
| quirky | *strange; different; unexpected* |
| imaginary | *not real* |

**Step 6.** Writing Response.

*Have students copy the writing prompt and respond.*
Make a list of things you can learn from reading about Jack's life. Circle the biggest lesson and write more about it.

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## GUIDED READING

Date Met: _____ Book Title: _____ Level: _____

| | Fluency | Comp. | Word Study |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 Very Choppy | 1 Incorrect | 1 Incorrect |

## GUIDED READING

## GUIDED READING

## GUIDED READING

Month: _____

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

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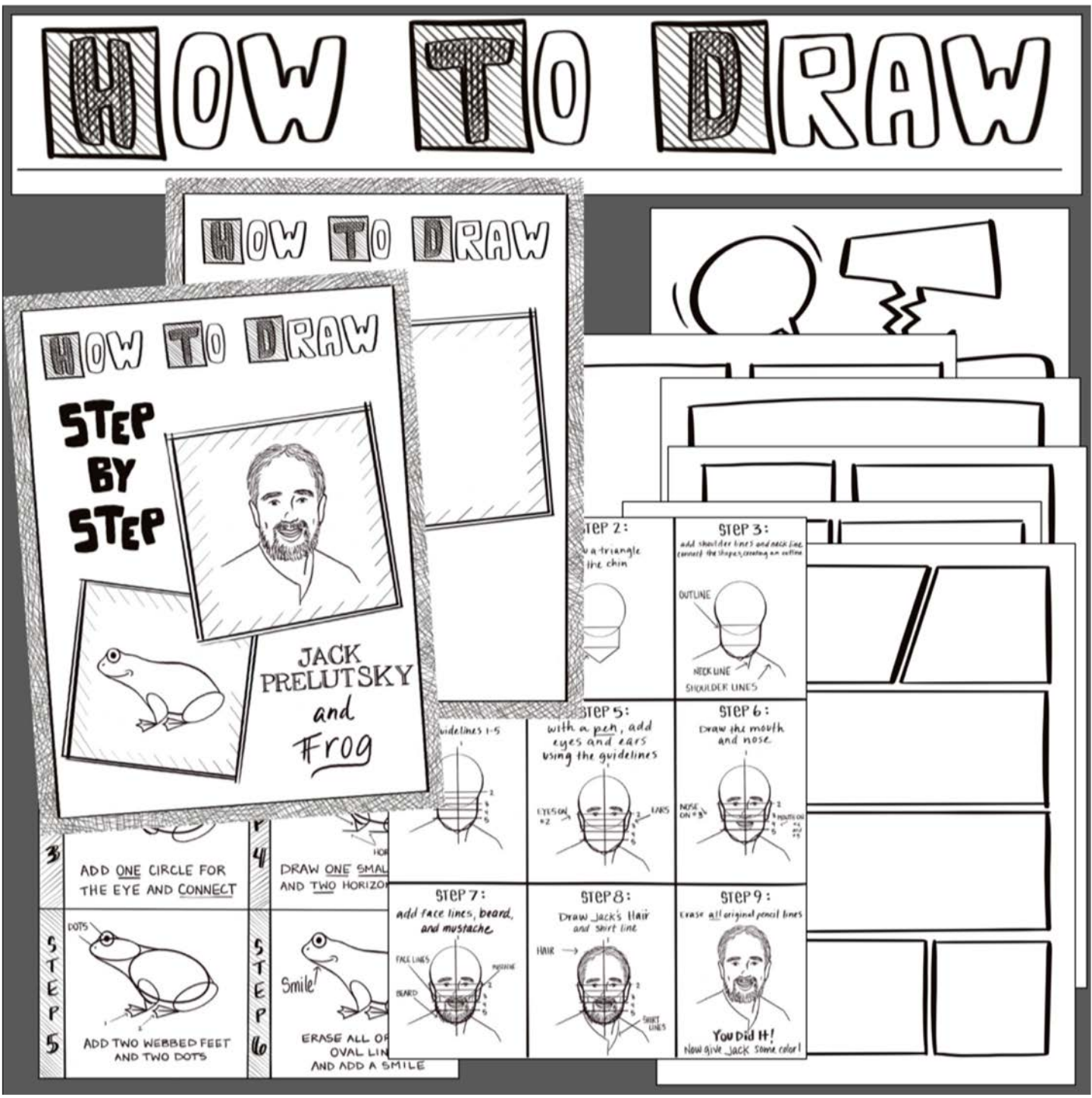
# HOW TO DRAW


HOW TO DRAW
HOW TO DRAW
STEP BY STEP
JACK PRELUTSKY and Frog
STEP 2:
STEP 3:
add shoulder lines and neck line, connect the shapes, creating an outline
OUTLINE
NECK LINE
SHOULDER LINES
STEP 5:
with a pen, add eyes and ears using the guidelines
STEP 6:
Draw the mouth and nose.
STEP 7:
add face lines, beard, and mustache.
FACE LINES
BEARD
STEP 8:
Draw Jack's Hair and shirt line
HAIR
SHIRT LINES
STEP 9:
Erase all original pencil lines
You Did It!
Now give Jack some color!
3
ADD ONE CIRCLE FOR THE EYE AND CONNECT
4
STEP 5
DOTS
ADD TWO WEBBED FEET AND TWO DOTS
STEP 6
Smile
ERASE ALL OF
OVAL LIN
AND ADD A SMILE

# GOOGLE™ LINKS FOR STUDENTS

Click each link to assign work to students each day!

## The Graphic Biography



JACK PRELUTSKY



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Multiple Choice | Comprehension Check | Vocabulary Check |
| Writing Prompts | Response Forms | How To Drawing |
| Graphic Templates | Guided Reading Lesson | Discussion Questions |
| Discussion Statements | Question Cards | |

**LINKS ACTIVE IN PAID VERSION**

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