¡Salta, Ranita, Salta!

In this cumulative tale, a hungry frog tries to catch a fly while avoiding capture himself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Robert Kalan was born in Los Angeles, California, graduated from Claremont Men’s College, and completed a master’s degree in education at Claremont Graduate School. He is the author of Blue Sea, an ALA Notable Book, and Rain, both illustrated by Donald Crews.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR
Byron Barton is an author-artist with an outstanding list of picture books to his credit. Among them are Truck Song and Building a House.

INTRODUCING THE STORY
In this book, children will watch a frog who, just as he catches a fly, meets other animals that want to catch him. How will he get away? (NOTE: Some exercises include words in both Spanish and English, enabling you to present them according to the needs of the group and the goals of your lesson.)

READING ACTIVITIES
Comprehension/Thinking Skills
a. “How did the frog catch the fly?”
b. “How did the frog get away from the boys at the end of the story?”
c. “In what order do the animals appear?”
d. “Were you glad that the frog escaped? What would happen if predators never caught their prey?” (Make predictions)

Vocabulary
Have children match each Spanish word to its English definition. Then they can put the words in each list in alphabetical order.

mosca                      turtle
ranita                     fish
pez                        fly
serpiente                  boy
tortuga                    frog
niño                       snake

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Art: Classroom Pond
Cut out a large pond from blue paper and attach it to a bulletin board. Provide a variety of art materials so that children can recreate the characters in the story. Using tape or glue, attach the animals to the pond, and display the pond in the classroom.

Math: Size Order
Make several paper cutouts of each creature in the story. Have children work in groups to arrange the creature in their real life size order.

Science: Other Amphibians
Have children find out about other amphibians, such as toads and salamanders. Ask them to work in small groups to research the amphibian of their choice and present a brief report to the rest of the class.

Music: Froggy Songs
Children may enjoy hearing songs about frogs. Play recordings of such tunes as “Frog Went A’Courting” and “Bein Green” for the group and talk about the habits of frogs each song describes.

INTERNET ACTIVITY
Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Frog Sounds
Children can hear the actual sounds various types of frogs make by using the keywords frog sounds to find sites on the Internet that offer recordings of frog noises. Have children listen to several such recordings and compare the different sounds frogs make.