

Classroom Chat Guide for

SLOW DUCK CROSSING

by Patricia Baker



General

What did you think of **Slow Duck Crossing**? Would you recommend it? Why, or why not? Did you have a favorite part? Tell us about it. Did you have a favorite character? Who, and why?

Photos

The photos above are from the place that inspired the author to write this fictional story. Have you ever “made up” a story about where you live? Are there any parts of this story that are real? If so, what, and why do you think they were included?

Point-of-View

The author chooses to tell the story from the point-of-view of a mailbox. What did you think about this decision? How does this creative decision impact the story? Do you have any objects in your life that you or your family sometimes pretend are alive?

Setting

The title, **Slow Duck Crossing**, refers to a place known by that nickname due to a sign in the road. At one point, one of the characters creates a map. Based on the descriptions in the book and your imagination, draw a map or picture of the book's setting or a particular scene from the story.

Characters

A main character is the one who drives the plot forward. Does **Slow Duck Crossing** have a main character or more of an ensemble where there are multiple main characters and storylines? Did you have a favorite character or storyline?

Plot and Pace

Plot is the action of a story, and pace is its speed. When is the plot of **Slow Duck Crossing** fast moving? When does it give you a chance to slow down and think about things a bit? How does the Chattahoochee River, where **Slow Duck Crossing** is set, serve to carry the plot along at these different paces?

Vocabulary

The mailbox, as a poet, likes words and often gives synonyms for them. Were there any words that you remember from **Slow Duck Crossing** that were new to you? Can you think of why knowing synonyms could be helpful when you are writing a poem?

Poems

Speaking of poems, the mailbox says perhaps we are all poets. The mailbox intended to write a poem about something called the ripple effect, but didn't. Let's do it now in the space below.

Your Turn!

Many characters in **Slow Duck Crossing** end up making a difference. Have you ever tried to change something in your neighborhood, school, or city? What happened? Is there something you'd like to change now, perhaps even something we can do together as a class? If so, is there any research we need to do first? Let's brainstorm the process for creating a ripple effect .