

Night of the Spadefoot Toads

by Bill Harley

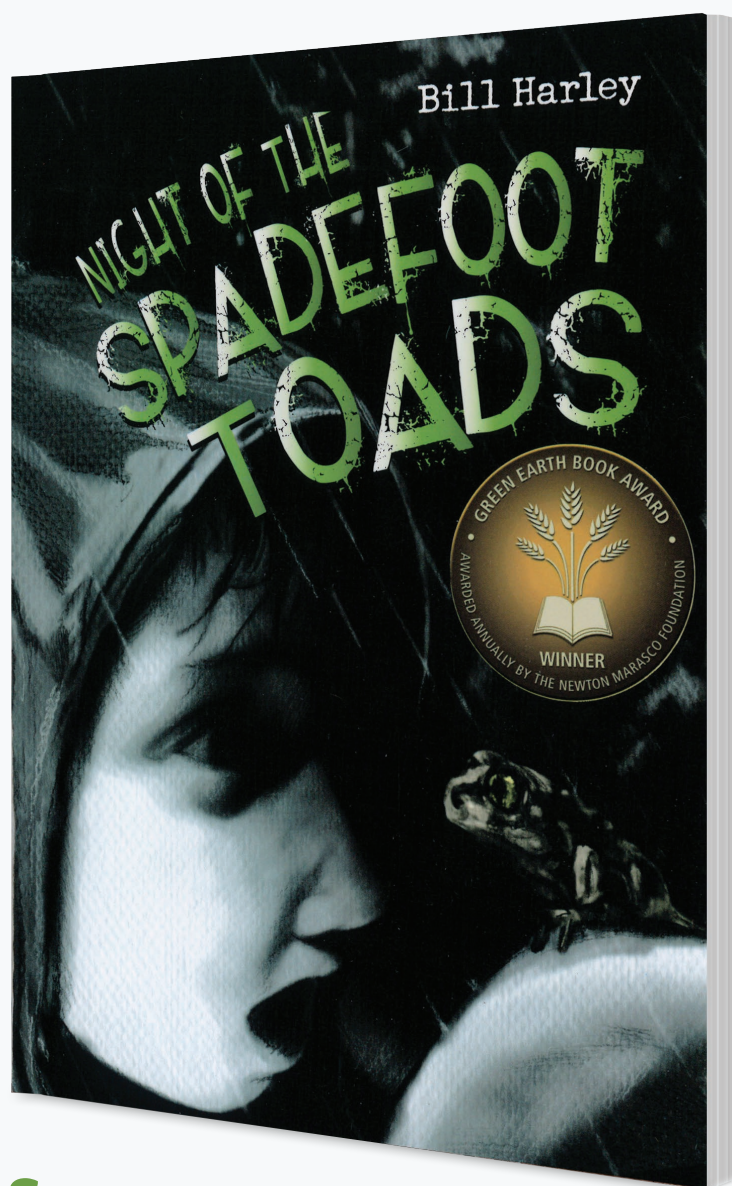
When his father takes a new job in Massachusetts, Ben Moroney must leave behind his best friend Tony, a western banded gecko named Lenny, and worst of all, the desert home he has loved and explored.

Theme

Depending on Each Other

Benchmark Vocabulary

Baffled	Experiment	Species
Biomes	Extinct	Straggle
Careens	Feebly	Vernal
Claimed	Inherited	Welling
Deflated	Marvel	Wry
Dwindled	Query	
Ecosystems	Sinister	



Close Read Questions

- Why does Ben put the frog in his pocket? Why does he decide to keep it?
- Why does Ben call Toby? What parts of the text reveal the reason?
- After Ben tells his father that his lizard died, the text says, “He knows it’s more than that, but it’s the simplest thing to say.” What do you think this means?
- How does Mrs. Tibbets respond when she finds out that Ben had sent an e-mail to the state? How do you know?
- How do you know Ben is excited about the chance that Hank may be able to save the spadefoot toads?
- What does “It’s all up to the Overtoad now” mean in the context of the story?
- What evidence from the text shows that Mrs. Turner changed her mind about selling the land?