



## **STUDY GUIDE FOR FROG AND TOAD**



# Frog and Toad

## Study Guide

### About The Performance:

*Frog and Toad* is a lovely adaptation of stories drawn from an assortment of Arnold Lobel's *Frog and Toad* stories. The performance is approximately 45 minutes in length, appropriate for children aged 3-8, and is performed by 3 professional actors. There is audience participation throughout.

"Spring" from *Frog and Toad are Friends* \*\*

"The Garden" from *Frog and Toad Together*

"Cookies" from *Frog and Toad Together*

"The Kite" from *Days with Frog and Toad* \*\*

"The Surprise" from *Frog and Toad All Year* \*\*

"Alone" from *Days with Frog and Toad* \*\*

\*\* Includes Participation

## Related Activities

### Art Activities:

- Make a calendar and become familiar with the months of the year. This activity will link directly with "Spring."
- Make kites and talk about how kites need wind to fly! This activity will link directly with "The Kite."
- Make leaf collages and leaf prints. This will link directly with "The Surprise."
- Paint with bird feathers. This activity will link with "Spring."

### Science Project Ideas:

- Make a pond in the classroom. One way to do this is to use a child's small plastic pool and fill it with pond water. Adding a turtle, a tadpole, and gold fish would be a way for the children to witness first hand the life of the pond and the development of the tadpole into a frog.
- Start plants from seeds. This activity directly links "The Garden."

### Dramatic Play Ideas:

The following are some items that connect the stories with imaginative play opportunities:

- Rakes and other gardening tools
- Cooking utensils, especially for cookie making
- Hand puppets
- Large blocks or units which can form an "island"

### Creative Movement Ideas:

- Play "Leap Frog" -- this is played by one child getting down in a crouch position like a frog. A second child jumps/"leaps" over him/her.
- Do the "frog kick"
- "Hatch" from pretend eggs, become little swimming tadpoles, and grow into a hopping toad or frog.
- Be birds-- fly, make nests, etc.
- Pretend to be the wind.

## **Frog and Toad-like Rhymes to Use During Storytime:**

(Compiled by the Youth Librarian at the  
Plymouth Public Library - Plymouth, MI)

Five green and speckled frogs, sat on a speckled log  
Eating some most delicious bugs - YUM YUM!  
One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool  
Now there are four green speckled frogs. GLUB GLUB!  
(Repeat Four, Three, Two, One)

\*\*\*\*\*

Hippity-hippity-hop!  
We're frogs, we like to jump.  
We jump so high  
We touch the sky  
Hippity-hippity-hop.

\*\*\*\*\*

Three little frogs  
Three little frogs  
See how they jump  
See how they jump  
They hop from lily pad to lily pad  
They ribbit, they smile and they say "I'm glad!"  
No one can sit on a lily pad  
Like three little frogs.

\*\*\*\*\*

Five green frogs were sitting on a well  
One leaned over and down he fell  
Reach up high. Bend down low.  
Now only four frogs are sitting in a row.  
(Repeat Four, Three, Two, One)

\*\*\*\*\*

We can jump jump jump  
We can hop hop hop  
We can clap clap clap  
We can stop stop stop.

We can nod our heads "Yes". We can shake our heads "No"  
We can bend our knees a little bit  
And sit....down....slow.

\*\*\*\*\*

A little green frog in a pond am I  
Hoppity hoppity hop  
I sit on a leaf that is high and dry  
Hoppity hoppity hop  
I watch all the fish as they swim by  
Hoppity hoppity hop  
SPLASH! How I make the water fly!  
Hoppity hoppity hop.

## **Fun Facts about Frogs and Toads:**

- Frogs and toads are parts of a classification of animals known as amphibians. They spend the first part of their lives in the water, swimming and breathing like fish. When they are adults, they can move on land and breathe air, thus spending less time in the water.
- They begin their life as eggs. After they hatch, they are called tadpoles. Tadpoles live in the water and breathe through gills. As adults, they can breathe air through their lungs.
- Adult frogs spend more time in the water than adult toads.
- Frogs have smooth skin, are slender, have long powerful hind legs and can jump great distances. Toads have rough skin, round bodies, and short legs. They move with short hops.
- Frogs and toads eat insects that live in and around the pond. They eat tiny creatures like snails, flies, water beetles, mosquitoes, worms and dragonflies. They use their tongues to catch their food. An amphibian's tongue is attached at the front of its mouth, not at the back, as human tongues are. Their tongue is long and the end of it is very sticky.
- Tadpoles live under water and breathe through gills. Frogs take in oxygen from the air through their lungs. They also absorb oxygen through their skin.
- Frogs and toads are both cold-blooded. This means that their body temperature changes as the temperature of their surroundings changes.
- Frogs and toads take water into their bodies through their skins. They don't drink with their mouth as humans and many other animals do.
- Frogs and toads live for many years. Frogs have been known to have lived for more than 20 years! There are records of toads living more than 36 years!
- Snakes are their greatest enemy. They use a variety of ways to protect themselves including camouflage, and hopping or swimming away.

## **SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

### OTHER BOOKS BY ARNOLD LOBEL:

GRASSHOPPER ON THE ROAD

MOUSE SOUP

MOUSE TALES

OWL AT HOME

SMALL PIG

UNCLE ELEPHANT

At the Frog Pond, by Tilde Michels with pictures by Reinhard Michl; J.B. Lippincott, New York, 1989.

Frogs and Toads, by Kate Petty with illustrations by Alan Baker; Aladdin Books Ltd./Franklin Watts, New York, NY, 1985.

Frogs and Toads, by Jane Dallinger and Sylvia A. Johnson with photographs by Hiroshi Tanemura; Lerner Publications Company, Minneapolis, 1982.

Frogs, Toads, Lizards, and Salamanders by Nancy Winslow Parker and Joan Richards Wright with illustrations by Nancy Winslow Parker; Greenwillow Books, New York, 1990.