

11. “Grandfather Frog Starts Out to See the Great World”

by Thornton W. Burgess

(Adaptation)

Grandfather Frog looked very serious as he sat on his big green lily pad. A foolish green fly actually brushed Grandfather Frog’s nose and he didn’t even notice it. Ever since he had fought with his cousin, old Mr. Toad, about going out into the Great World, Grandfather Frog had been thinking.

When Farmer Brown’s boy appeared, Grandfather Frog had hid under a lily pad. He watched old Mr. Toad sit and grin, for he wasn’t afraid of Farmer Brown’s boy. In fact, he had said that they were friends. When he saw Farmer Brown’s boy tickle old Mr. Toad under his chin with a straw, he knew that it was true.

Grandfather Frog had not come out of his hiding place until after old Mr. Toad and Farmer Brown’s boy had left. Then Grandfather Frog had climbed back on his big green lily pad and had sat there thinking very hard. And now, on this bright morning, he was still thinking.

The fact is Grandfather Frog was beginning to wonder if perhaps, after all, Mr. Toad was right. If the Great World had taught him how to make friends with Farmer Brown’s boy, there really must be some things worth learning there. Not for the world would Grandfather Frog have admitted to old Mr. Toad or to any one else that there was anything for him to learn. But right down in his heart he was beginning to think that there were things he couldn’t learn in the Smiling Pool. So he sat and thought and thought. Suddenly he made up his mind.

“Chugarum!” said he. “I’ll do it!”

“Do what?” asked Jerry Muskrat, who happened to be swimming past.

“I’ll go out and see for myself what this Great World old Mr. Toad talks about is like,” replied Grandfather Frog.

“Don’t you do it,” said Jerry Muskrat. “Don’t you do anything so foolish! You’re much too old, Grandfather Frog, to go out into the Great World.”

Few old people like to be told that they are too old to do things. “You just mind your own business!” he said sharply. “I know what is best for me. If my cousin, old Mr. Toad, can take care of himself out in the Great World, I can. I’m going, and that is all there is about it!”

With that Grandfather Frog dove into the Smiling Pool, swam across to a place where the bank was low, and without once looking back started across the Green Meadows to see the Great World.

Word Count: 421

NAME: _____

QUESTIONS

DATE: _____

Comprehension Questions

“Grandfather Frog Starts Out to See the Great World”

Assess each student’s comprehension of the selection by asking him or her to respond orally to the following questions one on one with you:

1. **Literal** What made Grandfather Frog think he should go out to see the Great World?
 - » Grandfather Frog thought if the Great World had taught old Mr. Toad how to make friends with Farmer Brown’s boy, then there were things worth learning there.
2. **Literal** Why did Jerry Muskrat say Grandfather Frog shouldn’t go out in the Great World?
 - » Jerry Muskrat said Grandfather Frog was too old to go out in the Great World.
3. **Inferential** Why does Grandfather Frog think he can go out in the Great World?
 - » Grandfather Frog said if his cousin old Mr. Toad can take care of himself out in the Great World, he can take care of himself there, too.