

## 12. “Grandfather Frog Loses Heart”

by Thornton W. Burgess  
(Adaptation)

*Look before you leap; the water may be deep.*

That is very good advice, but most people find that out when it is too late. Grandfather Frog did. He had heard that verse all his life. But Grandfather Frog seemed to have left all his wisdom behind him when he left the Smiling Pool to go out into the Great World. Grandfather Frog had been getting into scrapes ever since he started out on his foolish journey, and now here he was in still another. He had landed in it head first, with a great splash.

When he had seen the cool, sparkling water of the spring, he couldn't wait another second to get into it. He was so hot and dry and thirsty and uncomfortable. Grandfather Frog didn't look at all before he leapt. He just dove in with a great long jump. That water felt so good. For a few minutes he couldn't think of anything else. Grandfather Frog just closed his eyes and floated there in pure happiness.

He opened his eyes to look around. Then he blinked them rapidly for a minute or so. He rubbed them to make sure that he saw things correctly. His heart seemed to sink way, way down towards his toes. “Chugarum,” exclaimed Grandfather Frog, “Chugarum.” And after that for a long time he didn't say a word.

All around him rose perfectly straight smooth walls. He could look up and see a little of the blue sky right overhead and whispering leaves of trees and bushes. Over the edge of the smooth straight wall grasses were bending. But they were so far above his head. There wasn't any place to climb out. Grandfather Frog was in a prison.

A long time ago, Farmer Brown had cleared away all the dirt around the spring. Then

he had knocked the bottom out of a nice clean barrel and had dug down where the water bubbled up out of the sand. He set the barrel down in this hole and filled in the bottom with clean white sand for the water to bubble up through. About half-way up the barrel he had cut a little hole for the water to run out as fast as it bubbled in at the bottom. The water never could fill the barrel because when it reached that hole, it ran out. This left a straight, smooth wall up above, a wall altogether too high for Grandfather Frog to jump over from the inside.

Poor old Grandfather Frog. He wished more than ever that he never thought of leaving the Smiling Pool to see the Great World. Round and round he swam, but he couldn't see any way out of it. The little hole where the water ran out was too small for him to squeeze through, as he found out by trying and trying. So far as he could see, he just had to stay there all the rest of his life. Worse still, he knew that Farmer Brown's boy sometimes came to the spring for a drink, for he had seen him do it. That meant that the very next time he came, he would find Grandfather Frog because there was no place to hide. When Grandfather Frog thought of that, he just lost heart. Yes, Sir, he just lost heart. He gave up all hope of ever seeing the Smiling Pool again, and two big tears ran out of his big eyes.

**Word Count: 577**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONS

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions

### “Grandfather Frog Loses Heart”

*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. **Evaluative** Why is the saying *Look before you leap; the water may be deep* good advice?
  - » Answers may vary, but should include: you should investigate what you are getting yourself into before you just start something new without knowing anything about it because you may get yourself into something that you can’t handle and can’t figure out how to get out of.
2. **Literal** What does it mean that Grandfather Frog lost heart?
  - » He gave up all hope of getting out and seeing the Smiling Pool again.
3. **Inferential** Why did Grandfather Frog lose heart?
  - » He couldn’t get out of the spring, which was in a barrel with walls that Grandfather Frog couldn’t jump over. He couldn’t squeeze through the hole to get out either. He knew when Farmer Brown’s boy came to get a drink from the spring, he would find Grandfather Frog and hurt him.
4. **Literal** What happened when Grandfather Frog lost heart?
  - » Two big tears ran out of his big eyes.