

13. “The Dear Old Smiling Pool Once More”

by Thornton W. Burgess

(Adaptation)

Black Cat was having a good time. But Grandfather Frog wasn't. It was great fun for Black Cat to slip a paw under Grandfather Frog and toss him up in the air but it was a dreadful time for Grandfather Frog. He was terribly frightened. Black Cat didn't always cover up her claws, and they pricked right through Grandfather Frog's white and yellow skin and hurt.

At last Black Cat grew tired of playing, so catching up Grandfather Frog in her mouth, she started along the path from the spring to Long Lane.

“It's all over, and this is the end,” moaned Grandfather Frog. “I'm going to be eaten now. Why did I ever leave the Smiling Pool?”

Just then, Grandfather Frog heard a familiar sound. It was the whistle of Farmer Brown's boy. A little bit of hope began to stir in the heart of Grandfather Frog. He had been afraid of Farmer Brown's boy, but now if the boy should take him, he might be able to get away. He was very sure that he would never get away from Black Cat. The whistle drew nearer. Black Cat stopped.

“Hi, Black Cat! Have you been hunting? Come show me!” cried a voice.

Farmer Brown's boy stooped down to see what she had in her mouth.

“Why,” he exclaimed, “I do believe this is the very same frog that got away from me! You don't want him. I'll just put him in my pocket and take him up to the house.”

With that he dropped Grandfather Frog in his pocket. He patted Black Cat and started on his way, whistling merrily. It was dark and rather close in that pocket, but

Grandfather Frog didn't mind. It was a lot better than feeling sharp teeth and claws. After a while, he felt himself swung through the air, and he landed on the ground with a thump. Farmer Brown's boy had taken off his coat and thrown it down.

The whistling stopped. Everything was quiet. Grandfather Frog waited and listened, but not a sound could he hear. Then he saw a little ray of light creeping into his prison. He squirmed and pushed, and all of a sudden he was out of the pocket. The bright light made him blink. As soon as he could see, he looked to see where he was. Then he rubbed his eyes with both hands and looked again. He wasn't at Farmer Brown's house at all. He was right on the bank of the Smiling Pool, and a little way off was Farmer Brown's boy fishing!

"Chugarum!" cried Grandfather Frog, and it was the loudest, gladdest chugarum that the Smiling Pool ever had heard. "Chugarum!" he cried again, and with a great leap he dove with a splash into the dear old Smiling Pool, which smiled more than ever.

And never again has Grandfather Frog tried to see the Great World. He is quite content to leave it to those who like to dwell there. And since his own wonderful adventures, he has been ready to believe anything he is told about what happens there.

Word Count: 521

NAME: _____

QUESTIONS

DATE: _____

Comprehension Questions

“The Dear Old Smiling Pool Once More”

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 was Black Cat doing with Grandfather Frog at the beginning of the selection?
 - » Black Cat was slipping a paw under Grandfather Frog and tossing him up in the air.
2. **Literal** How did Grandfather Frog get back to the Smiling Pond?
 - » Farmer Brown’s boy took Grandfather Frog from Black Cat and put him in his pocket. Farmer Brown’s boy threw his coat on the ground, with Grandfather Frog still in the pocket. When Grandfather Frog pushed his way out of the pocket, he saw Farmer Brown’s boy off fishing. Grandfather Frog was on the bank of the Smiling Pool and he dove in.
3. **Inferential** What does Grandfather Frog mean by saying he is *quite content to leave the Great World to those who like to dwell there*?
 - » Grandfather Frog is happy to let those who live in the Great World deal with the Great World as he is done with it; he’d rather be in the Smiling Pool instead of out in the Great World.