

8. “Grandfather Frog’s Big Mouth Gets Him in Trouble”

by Thornton W. Burgess

(Adaptation)

Grandfather Frog has a great big mouth. He learned a long time ago that a big mouth is handy for catching foolish green flies. But once in a while his big mouth gets him into trouble. It holds so much that it makes him greedy sometimes. He stuffs it full after his stomach already has all that it can hold, and then he can’t swallow. Then Grandfather Frog looks very foolish and silly.

One morning Grandfather Frog had a very good breakfast of foolish green flies and didn’t need another thing to eat. Little Joe Otter came along. He had been fishing and had eaten all he could. Now he was taking the rest of his catch to a secret hiding place.

Now Grandfather Frog is very fond of fish, and when he saw those that Little Joe Otter had, his eyes glistened, and in spite of his full stomach his mouth watered.

“Good morning, Grandfather Frog! Have you had your breakfast yet?” called Little Joe Otter.

Grandfather Frog wanted to say no, but he always tells the truth. “Yes,” he replied. “I have.”

“Ok. I thought that if you hadn’t, you might like a fish. But since you have already eaten, of course you don’t want one,” said Little Joe, his eyes beginning to twinkle. He held the fish out so Grandfather Frog could see just how plump and nice they were.

“Chugarum!” exclaimed Grandfather Frog. “Those certainly are very nice fish. It is very nice of you to think of a poor old fellow like me. I might find room for just a little teeny one, if you can spare it.”

Little Joe Otter knows all about Grandfather Frog's greediness. He looked at Grandfather Frog and saw how he was already stuffed full. The twinkle in his eyes grew more mischievous than ever as he said, "Of course I can. But I wouldn't think of giving such an old friend a teeny, weeny one."

Little Joe picked out the biggest fish he had and tossed it over to Grandfather Frog. It landed close by his nose with a great splash. It was almost half as big as Grandfather Frog himself. It was plump and looked so tempting that Grandfather Frog forgot all about his full stomach. He even forgot to be polite and thank Little Joe Otter. He just opened his great mouth and grabbed the fish. The fish had started down Grandfather Frog's throat head first.

Grandfather Frog has no teeth, so he cannot bite things in two. He has to swallow them whole. That is just what he started to do with the fish. It went all right until the head reached his stomach. But you can't put anything more into a thing already full, and Grandfather Frog's stomach was packed as full as it could be of foolish green flies. There the fish stuck, and gulp and swallow as hard as he could, Grandfather Frog couldn't make that fish go a bit farther. Then he tried to get it out again, but it had gone so far down his throat that he couldn't get it back. Grandfather Frog had a fish stuck in his throat and he couldn't do anything about it.

Word Count: 537

NAME: _____

QUESTIONS

DATE: _____

Comprehension Questions

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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** Why did Grandfather Frog’s mouth water even though his stomach was full when he saw Little Joe Otter carrying fish?
» Grandfather Frog was very fond of fish.
2. **Inferential** Why did Grandfather Frog want to tell Little Joe Otter he hadn’t had his breakfast yet?
» Grandfather Frog hoped Little Joe Otter would give him some fish, since he liked fish so much, if he told Little Joe Otter he hadn’t had breakfast yet.
3. **Inferential** Why did Little Joe Otter give Grandfather Frog the biggest fish instead of a teeny, weeny one, as Grandfather Frog had asked for?
» Little Joe Otter knew how greedy Grandfather Frog was so he thought he’d teach Grandfather Frog a lesson by giving him a big fish, thinking Grandfather Frog wouldn’t be able to eat it.
4. **Literal** What happened when Grandfather Frog tried to eat the fish?
» The fish got stuck in his throat because it couldn’t go down any farther with his stomach full of flies.