

# FROG GOES TO DINNER

## FROG GOES TO DINNER

by MERCER MAYER

Themes: Animals, Families, Fantasy, Humor

Grade Level: K-3 (ages 4-9)

Running Time: 12 minutes

## SUMMARY

In this hilarious tale, a boy and his parents dress up and go to a fancy restaurant. Just before leaving home, the boy slips his pet frog into his pocket. At the restaurant the frog escapes and leaps from one funny situation to another. Each scene ends in a surprise. The frog crawls into a saxophone and, when the band plays, gets blown into a tank of live lobsters. Just when a lobster's claws are about to snap, the frog leaps out and into a salad. From the salad, the frog leaps onto a customer's head, into the soup, into a water glass (just in time to ruin a romantic moment). As customers leave in disgust, the frog makes for the kitchen, creating more chaos with every leap. The story ends with the boy and frog getting sent upstairs to bed by his parents, who can't stop themselves from laughing.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will watch and listen to a fictional story about a pet frog.
- Children will follow a narrative made up of a sequence of causes and effects.
- Children will appreciate visual humor.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Introduce the title of the program and ask children what they think will happen in the story. Ask them to imagine how or why a frog might go to dinner, and what might happen if a frog appeared in a restaurant. Ask them to remember their ideas as they watch the program, to see which events happen as they predicted. Explain that the story is told without words, so they will have to pay special attention to the pictures.

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Review the story by fast-forwarding through the program. Stop the program at the end of each key scene and ask children to remember what happened next. Then show the next scene to see if the children's memories were correct. Make a chalkboard list of the scenes and ask children to vote on which events they thought were the funniest.

To help children develop storytelling skills, ask them to pretend that they are the people who were eating in the restaurant. Have different children tell parts of the story from the viewpoints of the doorman, the musicians, the waiters, the salad eaters, the romantic couple, the cook, the boy's parents and the boy himself.

Connect the story to music and poetry by challenging children to write songs about the story. Encourage them to write new words to familiar

songs. For example, have them write a song called "Frog Went to Dinner" to the tune of "Frog Went a-Courtin'." "Mary Had a Little Lamb" could become "Bobby Had a Little Frog."

Use the restaurant theme to motivate children to use the library and help them practice their library skills. Explain how to use the library's computer search engines or card catalogs as well as cooking magazines. Challenge them to find recipes for lobster, for a salad dressing that includes an egg and, of course, for cooking frogs.

Connect the story to both science and math by having children find basic facts about common varieties of frogs. Have them use nature guides to find average body lengths, weights, life spans and jumping distances. Then challenge them to use these statistics to write math story problems.

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