

Fabulous Frog and Toad

Invite your students to explore a world of charming amphibians and lasting friendships with Arnold Lobel's Frog and Toad series! Use the learning activities below with any books in the collection and the ideas that follow with four of the endearing stories.

ideas by Marjorie Conrad, Kaysville, UT

Flipping Over Friendship

Writing in response to a story

It seems as though Frog and Toad are always doing nice things for one another! Spotlight the characters' kind ways with this flip booklet. For each student, make a shape booklet similar to the one shown with one green cover, one brown cover, and several white pages. (Go to www.themailboxcompanion.com for a cover pattern.)

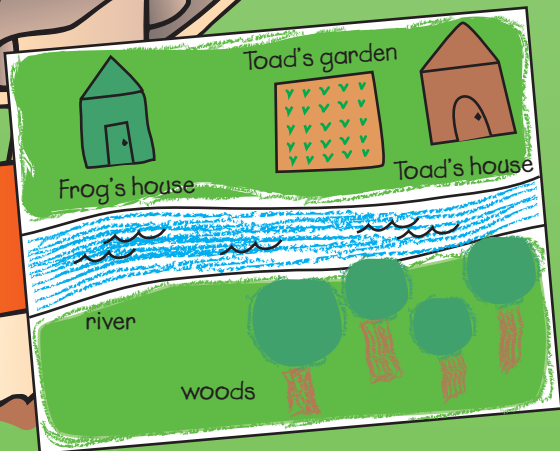
After reading a Frog and Toad story aloud, prompt students to name ways in which the characters show friendship. Then have each student decide whether he wants to write about Frog's or Toad's friendly behavior. Ask him to place his booklet on a work surface so that the corresponding cover is on top—green for Frog and brown for Toad. Instruct the youngster to write about the character on his first booklet page and then illustrate his work. In a similar manner, have him complete his remaining pages after later storytime sessions. The booklet will be a cute storytime keepsake as well as a nifty reminder of positive behavior! 📖



Where?

Exploring story settings

A meadow, a river, and a pond are just some of the places frequented by Frog and Toad. After students are familiar with the series, write a student-generated list of the story settings. Ask each student to illustrate a scene that includes three or more of the listed settings. Then help her label each place. After students complete their work, have volunteers show the class their illustrations. Prompt the youngsters to tell about story events that occur in the featured settings. **For more advanced students**, present a prompt such as "If you visit Frog and Toad, you might go to..." and have each youngster write about each setting that he illustrated.





Frog and Toad Together

by Arnold Lobel

Will Toad's garden ever grow? Are Frog and Toad brave? Do they have willpower? This entertaining Newbery Honor book provides the answers!

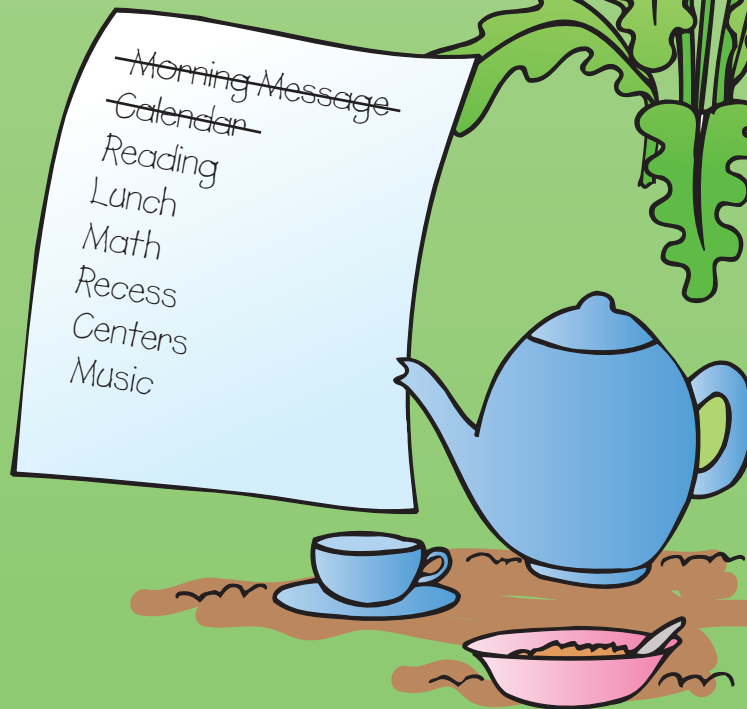


"A List"

Building prior knowledge, making connections

Toad's to-do list is helpful—until it gets lost, that is! Before reading "A List," spark interest in the story with this simple idea. Early in the day, comment to students that people often write lists to help them remember what they need to do. Then guide students to name the day's main school activities; list the activities in chronological order on a sheet of chart paper. Tell students that Toad writes a list in the story, and ask them to predict what is on his list. Encourage them to check their predictions as you read the story aloud.

After a follow-up discussion, remind students of the activities you listed earlier. Suggest using the list throughout the day just as Toad uses his list. No doubt students will enjoy the sense of accomplishment!

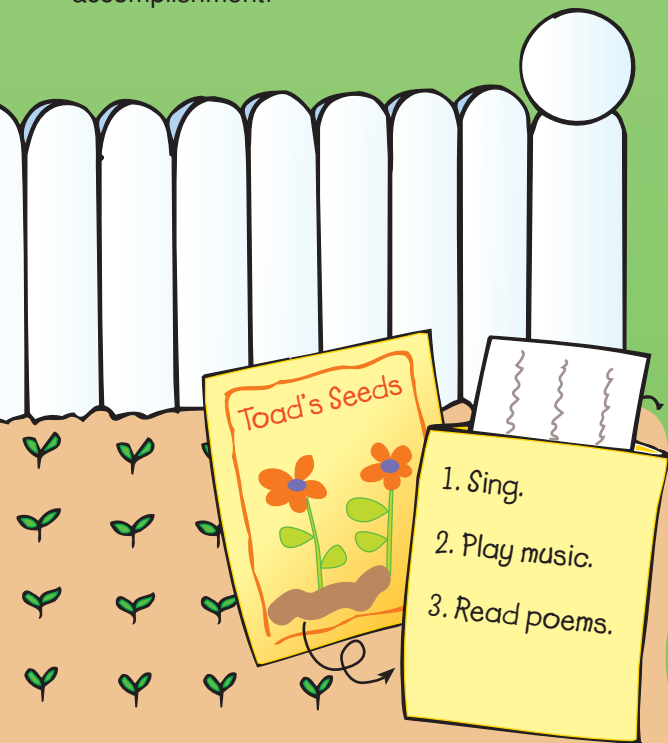


"The Garden"

Recalling story details

Toad certainly has a unique approach to growing seeds! Read the story aloud. Then give each youngster a 4½" x 12" piece of white construction paper. Help him fold it in half and then tape the longer sides closed, leaving the shorter end (the top) open. On one side of his project, have him write "Toad's Seeds" and add crayon details to resemble a seed packet. On the other side, ask him to write a numbered list of three things that Toad does to try to make his garden grow. Instruct him to write Frog's more traditional gardening ideas on a 3" x 5" card and then slide the card into the seed packet. Encourage him to take his completed project home and refer to it as he tells his family about the story.

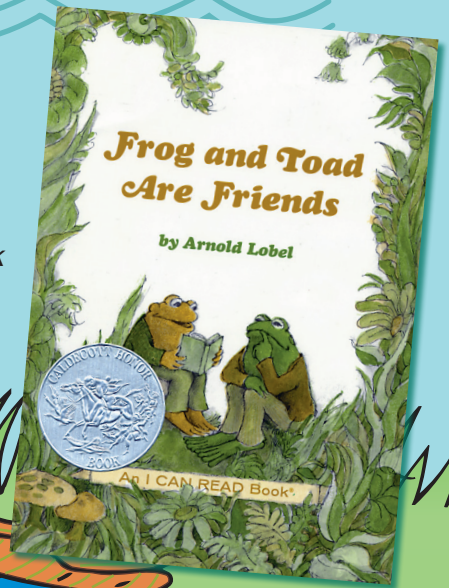
For an easier version, give each student a list of the strategies that Toad uses and have him glue it to the back of his decorated packet. Ask him to illustrate each strategy on a separate blank card and then store it in his packet.



Frog and Toad Are Friends

by Arnold Lobel

Celebrate friendship with Frog and Toad as they look for a missing button, go swimming, and enjoy other entertaining adventures in this Caldecott Honor book.

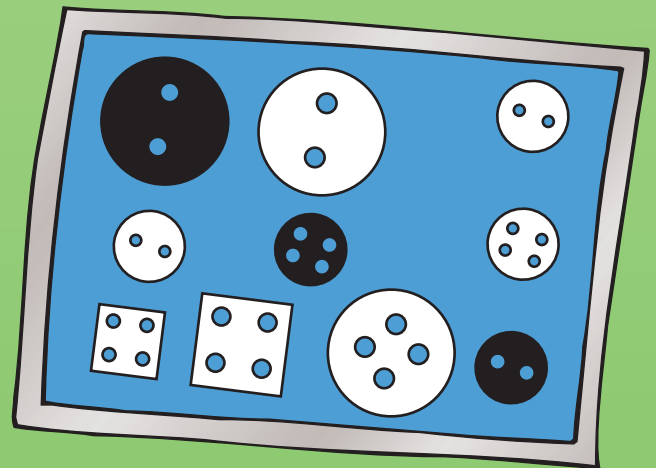


“A Lost Button”

Using describing words

Toad looks for his lost button by retracing his steps. With this activity, your students use describing words to find the right button. Make ten button cutouts that have the same characteristics as the ones shown (color, shape, relative size, and number of holes). Prepare the buttons for use on a flannelboard or magnetic board.

After reading the story aloud, display the buttons. Explain that students will use clues to find your favorite button in the group. Then give each listed clue, one at a time. After each clue, have students remove each button that does not fit the description. When only one button remains on the board, congratulate students on a job well done and point out that the button looks like Toad’s (large, round, white, and four-holed). To extend the activity, have each student describe a chosen button and then challenge his classmates to identify it.



The button

- is not black
- does not have two holes
- is not small
- is not square

“The Letter”

Writing a message

How does Frog cure Toad’s mailbox blues? By sending him some mail! Have students model Frog’s thoughtfulness with this “send-sational” follow-up. Ask each youngster to fold a sheet of construction paper in half to make a card. Instruct her to address the card to a chosen family member as shown and then decorate the front of it with a story-related illustration. Help her write a message in the card on the left-hand side.

Next, give each youngster a narrow strip of construction paper, a frog cutout, glue, and a copy of the rhyming message shown. Have her accordion-fold the strip and then glue one end of it to the right-hand side of the card. Instruct her to glue the frog to the other end of the strip (see the illustration). After she glues the rhyming message in place, ask her to sign her name. Encourage her to personally deliver the card or prepare it for postal delivery with assistance as needed. **For more advanced students**, have each youngster write a letter in her card.

