arvadacenter
for the arts
and humanities

A Year With Frog and Toad

Study Guide

Written by
Cayle Townsend

This study guide is also available online at
www.arvadacenter.org/education/study-guides

Study Guide Presented by:

Children's Theater Additional funding by:

the JANUS Foundation

Ralph and Florence Burgess Trust

John G. Duncan Charitable Trust

Kinder Morgan Foundation

A Year with Frog and Toad

"A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words."
-Anonymous

Summary: Frog and Toad are best friends. We meet them as they wake up from their long winter's nap to begin another year together. Throughout the year they do many fun things like baking cookies, going swimming, flying kites and planting a garden. They spend a lot of time with each other and with other animals they know. But not every day is fun for them. Sometimes they are sad and sometimes they get angry, but in the end they always remember that they are best friends who care about each other very much.

Instructional Focus: The focus of this study guide is reading and writing, theatre, visual arts and music. It was written with the Colorado Model Content Standards and differentiation in mind. Specific Standards are listed below:

Colorado Model Content Standards:

Reading and Writing will be symbolized by:

Standard 1: Students read and understand a variety of materials.
Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.
Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing.

Theatre will be symbolized by:

Standard 2: Students understand and apply the creative process to fundamental skills of acting, playwriting and directing.

Visual Arts will be symbolized by:

Standard 2: Students know and apply elements of art, principles of design, and sensory and expressive features of visual arts.

Science will be symbolized by:

Standard 1: Students understand the processes of scientific investigation and design, conduct, communicate about and evaluate such investigations.
Standard 3: Students know and understand the characteristics and structure of living things, the processes of life, and how living things interact with each other and their environment.

Math will be symbolized by:

Standard 2: Students use algebraic methods to explore, model and describe patterns in functions involving numbers, shapes, data and graphs in problem solving situations.

Before the Performance

Before coming to the Arvada Center to see the performance, you may want to engage your student's interest with one of the following activities:

1. Read part or all of *Frog and Toad All Year*, *Frog and Toad are Friends, Frog and Toad Together* and *Days with Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel. This play is based on parts of these 4 books.

2. Find out more about Arnold Lobel. His daughter Adrienne likes to tell the story that when she was a little girl, her father came up from the garden one day saying, "Look, Adrienne, I have a frog." When she saw what he held in his hand she replied, "Daddy, that's a toad." This incident prompted the Frog and Toad stories.
   http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/lobel.html
   http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/HarperChildrens/Kids/AuthorsAndIllustrators/ContributorDetail.aspx?CId=12406
   http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arnold_Lobel

3. Discuss friendship and create a class web of friendship words (see appendix).

4. Some of the actors in the show play many different characters. An actor might be a bird in one scene and a mole in the next. Think about how they will be able to do this and look like the different characters. While watching the show, notice how the actors change their character using costumes, movement, and different voices.

5. As members of the audience, you play an important part in the success of a theatrical performance. Please make clear to your students that the rules of attending a live theatre performance are different than watching television at home or a movie in a theatre. As it is a live performance, it cannot be stopped and restarted.

We want you to laugh, cheer, clap and really enjoy your time at the Arvada Center, but there are a few rules that need to be followed. Please review the following theatre etiquette rules with your students prior to your visit:

- Food, drinks, candy and gum chewing are not permitted in the theatre.
- Do not talk, whisper, sing or hum during the performance.
- Keep feet on the floor, not on the seats.
- Performers appreciate enthusiastic applause, but not whistling or shouting.
- Please turn off all cell phones!

6. Discuss these theatre terms with your students and before the performance see if your students can remember where they are:

- **Acting area**: The area within the performance space where the actor moves in full view of the audience.
- **Apron**: Section of the stage floor which projects towards or into the auditorium.
- **Backstage:** The part of the stage and theater which is out of the sight of the audience.
- **Upstage**: The part of the stage furthest from the audience, or a movement directly away from the audience.
- **Downstage**: The part of the stage nearest to the audience, or a movement towards the audience.
- **Rear of House (ROH)**: Backstage area of an auditorium
- **Stage Left / Right**: The left and right sides of the stage from the actor's point of view when looking at the audience.

For more theatre terms or for theatre activities visit:
http://library.thinkquest.org/5291/terms.html

After the Performance

1. The overriding theme of *A Year with Frog and Toad* is friendship. Choose some of these ideas for exploring friendship to do with your class:

- Discuss what it means to be a good friend. Make a chart of good friendship qualities and post in classroom.
- Have students draw a picture of a friend who is special to them. Write a sentence or two about this friend under the picture
- Friendship Tales: Write a story about one of your friends. What do you like about your friend? What do you do together? If you could

do anything in the world for your friend, what would you do? Share your story with your friend.

- Write a Friendship Recipe telling someone else how to be a good friend. Include the ingredients of a friendship and the recipe (steps) for being a good friend or making new friends.
- Divide a piece of paper in half lengthwise. On one side make a list for the topic "I like a friend who...." On the other side make a list for the topic "Things I do for my friends...."
- People can be very different and still be friends just like Frog and Toad. Is there a way of being different that would make it impossible for you to be someone's friend? What is it? Now, think of a fun way you and a friend are (or could be) different.
- For other ideas visit http://humanityquest.com/topic/art_activities/index.asp?theme1=friendship

1, 2 & 4 2

2. Did you know that ranidaphobia is the fear of frogs and bufonophobia is the fear of toads? Investigate frogs and toads! See appendix for websites. Here are some questions to get you started:
   - Where in the world do frogs and toads live?
   - What do some toads have behind their eyes? How are frog's eyes different?
   - Which has longer legs – frogs or toads?
   - Diagram the life cycle of a frog/toad.
   - List the differences between a frog and a toad.
   - A group of lions is called a pride. What is a group of frogs called? What is a group of toads called?
   - What do frogs and toads eat? Do they have teeth?

   1, 2 & 4 3

3. Discuss seasons. We are lucky to live in a state with four seasons. Which season is your favorite? Did you see all four seasons in the performance? What are the differences in the seasons? What activities are associated with each season? Have your students create a work of art that shows the four seasons. 2 3

4. Toad was very happy to receive Frog's letter. Do your students like receiving letters? Have your students write letters to each other and mail them. You may want to discuss various inventions that have made it possible to send mail more quickly. Use the internet to send messages to each other. 1, 2 & 4

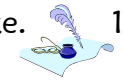
5. Have your students write a review of the performance and send it to the Arvada Center. Ask them to include what their favorite character, their

impression of the set, lights, sound and costumes as well as their favorite part of the performance. You could also have them send letters to the actors!

2 & 4

Send these to:

The Cast of Frog and Toad
c/o Kathleen Murphy
Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities
6901 Wadsworth Blvd.
Arvada, Colorado 80003-9985

6. Are you more like Frog or Toad? Have your students write which character they are more like and why. Which is one of your friends more like? Or have your students act out a scene with a friend that illustrates which character they are most like.  1, 2 & 4, 2

7. Turtle and the others made fun of Toad in his bathing suit. How did it make him feel? Have you ever had your feelings hurt because someone made fun of you? Write about or discuss how it makes you feel when someone makes fun of you. 1, 2 & 4

8. Toad plants a garden in the spring and tries different things to make the plants grow. Have your students plant seeds and care for them. You may want them to chart their growth or try your own different things to see what helps make a plant grow. Try different potting soils, different containers (Styrofoam or paper cups, mulch cups), different placement in the room or maybe different light sources and watering patterns. Graph your results. 2 & 3, 2

9. Toad decides that he will perform an interpretive dance for his seeds to encourage them to grow. Give your students a chance to create their own interpretive dance. They could create their own dance for seeds, to tell a story or anything else that might be fun and get them inspired. 2

10. Collect some costume pieces and recreate some of the characters and scenes or create new scenes based on other Frog and Toad stories. You may want to perform these in Reader's Theater style. See these websites for more information and scripts using Reader's Theatre: 2

http://www.aaronshep.com/rt/RTE.html
http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/langrt.htm
http://www.teachingheart.net/readerstheater.htm
http://literacyconnections.com/ReadersTheater.php

11. Make your own Frog and Toad. These web sites contain instructions for paper plate, paper bag, sock puppet patterns as well as others. 2

http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/frogs.htm
http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/frogcrafts/l/blcpfrog1.htm
http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/frogcrafts/l/blfrogpp.htm
http://familycrafts.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?zi=1/XJ/Ya&sdn=familycrafts&cdn=parenting&tm=38&gps=81_876_1020_567&f=00&su=p284.8.150.ip_&tt=14&bt=1&bts=1&zu=http%3A//www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mpfrog.html
http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/frog/

Frog and Toad Booklist:

Other books Written and Illustrated by Arnold Lobel:

- *The Book of Pigericks*
- *Days with Frog and Toad*
- *Frog and Toad All Year*
- *Frog and Toad Together*
- *Mouse Soup*
- *Mouse Tales*
- *Owl at Home*
- *Ming Lo Moves the Mountain*
- *Uncle Elephant*

Friendship

Best Friends by Miriam Cohen
Do You Want to Be My Friend by Eric Carle
Best Friends Together Again by Aliki
Monkey in the Middle by Eve Bunting
Otis by Janie Bynum

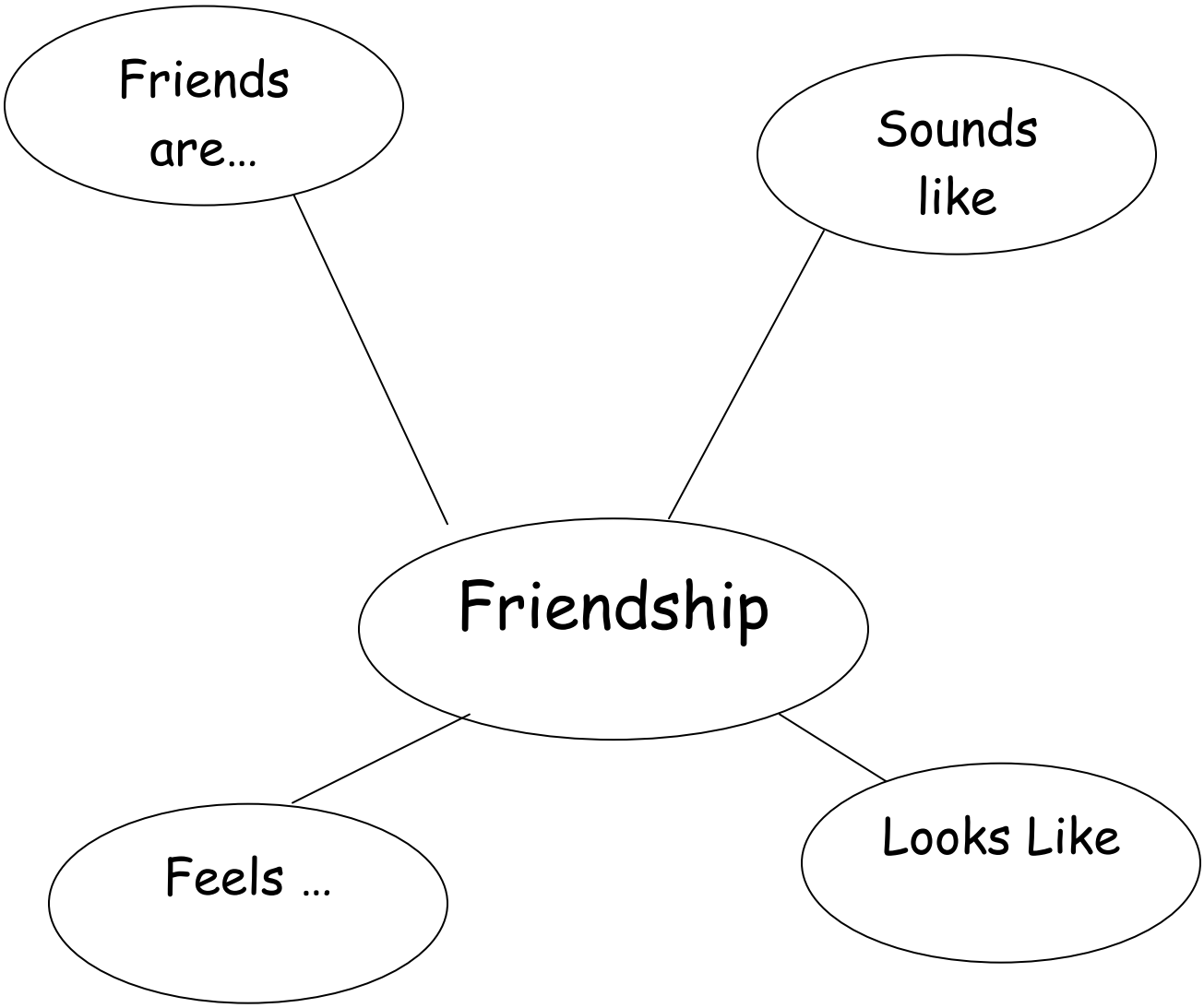
Seasons

Caps, Hats, Socks, and Mittens: A book about the four seasos… by Louise Borden
The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree by Gail Gibbons
When will it be spring? by Catherine Walters
Why do leaves change color? by Betsy Maestro
Sunshine Makes the Seasons by Franklyn Mansfield Branley
The Four Seasons (Emergent Reader Science) by Rozanne Lanczak Williams
Fresh Fall Leaves by Betsy Franco
The Reasons for Seasons by Gail Gibbons
The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

Self-esteem

I'm Gonna Like Me: Letting Off A Little Self-Esteem by Jamie Lee Curtis
Arthur's Nose by Marc Brown
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell
ABC, I Like Me by Nancy Carlson
I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont

Friendship Word Web



Have a class discussion about friendship. Have student contribute words that are associated with the concept of friendship. Write their words around the categories. Display in classroom.

Websites with Frog and Toad information

http://latham.dropbear.id.au/frogs/frog9.htm
http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/amphibians/Toadprintout.shtml
http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/amphibians/Frogprintout.shtml
http://allaboutfrogs.org/
http://projects.edtech.sandi.net/lvelem/frogsandtoads/index.html
http://www.e-tutor.com/demo/lessons/2/index.htm#act
http://www.exploratorium.edu/frogs/

Coloring sheets

http://michelesworld.net/dmm/frog/color/color14.jpg
http://allaboutfrogs.org/funstuff/colorme.html
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/kids/frogscolor.html

About the Author – Cayle Townsend

Cayle Townsend is a retired teacher with 20 years experience teaching gifted students who currently consults with and coaches teachers of gifted students. She also spends lots of time with her 2 teenaged daughters and husband.

A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD

PARENT/TEACHER EVALUATION

We value your input!

Please take a moment to fill out this evaluation and return to:
Kathleen Murphy, Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities
6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO, 80003
or
hand it in at the Arvada Center Box Office.

Date of performance:_____

Name of School Group or Family:_____

PLAY

I. Youth Response

Enthusiasm ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High
Understanding of the content ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High

II. Content

Appropriate length ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High
Appropriate for group ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High
Ability to integrate into curriculum ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High

III. Study Guide

Usefulness in preparing students for the production ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High
Usefulness in conducting post viewing activities ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High
Clarity and completeness of activity instructions ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High
Age appropriateness of content ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High

IV. Performance

Quality of overall production ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High
Quality of scenic elements ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High
Quality of costumes ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High
Was the use of music important ..... Low 1 2 3 4 5 High

Comments & Suggestions for Titles / Shows: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____