A Froggy Friend

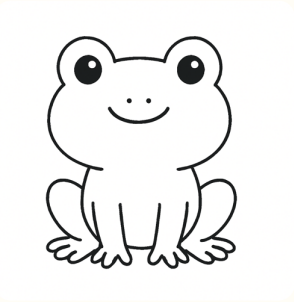
Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **fable** is a short story, often with animals that talk and act like people. It ends with a **moral**, a lesson about how to live.

Find the moral: What mistake did a character make, or what wise thing did they do? What should we learn from it?

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On the edge of a lily pond lived a small green frog named Pip. Pip was the smallest frog in the pond, and the bigger frogs often teased him for his tiny croak.

One afternoon, a baby duckling paddled away from its family and got tangled in the reeds. "Help!" it peeped. The big frogs just laughed. "Ducks are not our problem," they croaked, and they hopped away.

Pip did not hop away. He was small enough to wiggle between the thick reeds. Slowly, he pushed and pulled until the duckling was free. Then he led it back across the pond to its mother.

A few days later, a hungry heron landed at the pond. The frogs scattered in fear. But the mother duck saw the heron sneaking up behind Pip. She flapped her wings and quacked so loudly that the heron flew away.

"You helped my baby," said the mother duck. "Now I have helped you." From that day on, nobody laughed at Pip's tiny croak.

Moral: *A kindness is never wasted. Help others, and they may one day help you.*

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Why did the big frogs tease Pip?

(a) He was slow.
(b) He was small and had a tiny croak.
(c) He was a different colour.

2. Why could Pip reach the duckling?

(a) He was small enough to wiggle between the reeds.
(b) He could fly.
(c) He was the strongest frog.

3. Who saved Pip from the heron?

(a) The big frogs
(b) The mother duck
(c) The duckling

4. How did the big frogs act when the duckling needed help?

(a) Unkind
(b) Brave
(c) Helpful

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **How was Pip different from the big frogs?**

2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. Why did the big frogs tease Pip?

- a. He was slow.
- **b. He was small and had a tiny croak.**
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2. Why could Pip reach the duckling?

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- **b. The mother duck**
- c. The duckling

4. How did the big frogs act when the duckling needed help?

- **a. Unkind**
- b. Brave
- c. Helpful

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **How was Pip different from the big frogs?**
   Pip chose to help the duckling even though it wasn't a frog, but the big frogs laughed and hopped away.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   A kindness is never wasted. Help others, and they may one day help you.