

For the kids....

Many years ago, about 1968, Sharon was at her first elementary special education teaching position. Somewhere, we won a fuzzy little frog toy with a flower in it's hand. Sharon was going to take it to school to show to her kids, so I wrote this a story for them, to explain why the frog had a flower.

# **HOW FAT FREDDY FROG FOUND THE FRIENDLY FLOWER**

By: Wayne Majors ©1968



Down in the state of Florida lived a farmer named Frank Fogerty. On Frank Fogerty's farm was a forest and in the forest was a pond. In Frank Fogerty's pond grew ferns and frogs. Now ferns are little green plants that aren't very important because this story isn't about them. Frogs, on the other hand, are little green animals and they are important because this story is about them. More specifically, this story is about one very special frog named Fat Freddy. Fat Freddy lived over in the southeast corner of Frank Fogerty's farm-pond and he was a fairly famous frog. Nobody ever called him "Famous Fat Freddy Frog", they just called him "Fat Freddy Frog", but everybody knew who he was because he weighed five pounds. Five pounds isn't much for some animals but for a frog, five is fat. So, everybody knew about fairly famous Fat Freddy the five-pound frog.

Freddy was the only frog in the pond who couldn't sit on a lily pad and catch flies. Now flies are the favorite food of most frogs so this was serious. Every time Fat Freddy sat on a lily pad, he fell off, because he was too heavy. There wasn't a lily pad in the pond that was firm enough for Fat Freddy Frog. This fact caused Fat Freddy to fret because he knew that frogs had to eat flies and fat frogs have to eat a lot of flies. So, Fat Freddy was always hungry. He would jump onto a lily pad, stick out his tongue and fetch a fly, and then the lily pad would tip and Fat Freddy would fall back into the pond. It took Fat Freddy a long time to fetch his lunch this way and he used to complain to his fellow frogs that he feared he would starve to death. The other frogs only laughed at Fat Freddy. They weren't very friendly frogs and they treated Fat Freddy like a freak. They called him "Funny Fat Freddy the Foolish Freak Frog".

For a while Fat Freddy solved his problem by sitting on a log on the north side of the pond. From the top of the log Fat Freddy could catch flies all day without falling off. Then one day the turtles came and saw Fat Freddy on the log.

"Get off of our log!" they shouted. "Frogs aren't supposed to sit on logs. Turtles sit on logs and warm themselves in the sun. Frogs are supposed to sit on lily pads. Get off of our log, frog!"

"Couldn't I just sit on one end of the log?" asked Fat Freddy. "I promise not to take up much room."

"Get off of our log, frog!" the turtles said again.

"Could I sit on the log on cloudy days when you aren't sunning yourselves?" Fat Freddy asked.

"Get off of our log, frog!" they repeated.

Since the turtles weren't very friendly, Fat Freddy frog-kicked his way back to his own end of the pond. He climbed out onto the bank and sat there in the grass.

"I'll sit here in the grass and fetch flies," he said. "No one can complain if I sit in the grass."

"Get off of mmmmy grass!" a loud voice said.

Freddy looked up and saw a cow standing over him. The cranky cow was not really angry at Fat Freddy, she was angry because she was purple. But that's another story.

"Can't I just sit here and fetch a few flies?" asked Fat Freddy.

"Nnnnnno," said the cow, "I eat this grass and I don't want any frogs sitting on mmmmy lunch. Get off of mmmmy grass!"

Fat Freddy left the cranky cow and crawled back to the pond. He was about to give up and sink to the bottom, when he found a round rock sitting near the edge of the pond.

"I'll sit here and fetch flies," he said. "The turtles can sit on their log, the cow can eat her grass, and I'll sit here on my round rock and fetch flies."

"Your rock, you sssssay?" someone hissed at Fat Freddy. "You Fat Freak Frog, that'sssssss my rock and you'd better get off fasssssst!"

It was a snake that hissed at Fat Freddy, and Fat Freddy remembered that snakes like to lie on round rocks. He also remembered that snakes sometimes like to bite frogs, so he quickly jumped into the water and swam away.

Freddy just swam around doing the frog-kick and wondering how long it would take him to starve to death. He was awfully hungry and he was sad, for everywhere he looked he saw either angry animals or his fellow frogs laughing at him. Then he heard what sounded like a friendly voice calling his name.

"Freddy, over here Freddy."

Freddy swam toward the voice and to his surprise it was a water lily. Now a water lily is a fascinating flower. In fact, the leaves of the water lily are what frogs call lily pads. This water lily was a fascinating yellow flower with large petals and it was shaped like a big soup bowl.

"I didn't know flowers could talk!" Fat Freddy said to the friendly water lily.

"Of course we can talk!" said the fascinating friendly flower. " We just don't very often because our beauty speaks for itself."

"You certainly are beautiful," Fat Freddy said politely.

"How nice of you to notice," the fascinating friendly flower said. "I think I have a deal for you Freddy, if you're interested.

"What do you mean?" Fat Freddy asked.

"You've been looking for a place to sit and fetch flies," said the water lily, "and I've been thinking that your green color would look nice on my yellow petals. Also, these pesky flies tickle me and you could sit here on top and fetch them from my petals."

"You mean I can sit on you?" Fat Freddy asked in disbelief. "Won't I be too heavy? Won't you sink like the lily pads?"

"I'm much stronger than they are," the fascinating friendly flower said, "and I'm shaped like a round boat so I'll float even with your weight. In fact, if you hadn't been such a fine fat frog, I wouldn't have asked you to sit on me. These other skinny frogs couldn't eat enough flies to keep them off of my petals. You're a fine fat frog."

"A 'fine fat frog'?" Freddy said. "Gee, I've been called a 'funny fat frog' and a 'freaky fat frog', but never a 'fine fat frog'. I'll be glad to sit on you."

So Freddy the fine fat frog hopped up on the fascinating friendly flower and fetched flies all day long. All of the other frogs were jealous because they had to sit on lily pads. None of them got to sit on fascinating friendly flowers.

Now, everywhere Freddy goes he carries a small flower to remind others that he's the fine fat frog who gets to sit on a fascinating friendly flower, and no one laughs at Fine Fat Freddy Frog anymore.

"Farewell!" says Fat Freddy Frog, "This fabulous fable is finished!"