

Have the children make up a story about something like a foolish firefly. For example, here is a story starter: Once there was a firefly who thought he could light up better than anyone else.

Ask for illustrations to accompany the class's story.

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Other videos and films about pride and vanity available from Weston Woods include:

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES	by Nadine Bernard Westcott
FLOSSIE AND THE FOX	by Patricia McKissack & illus. by Rachel Isadora
THE SWINEHERD	by H.C. Andersen & illus. by Bjorn Wiinblad

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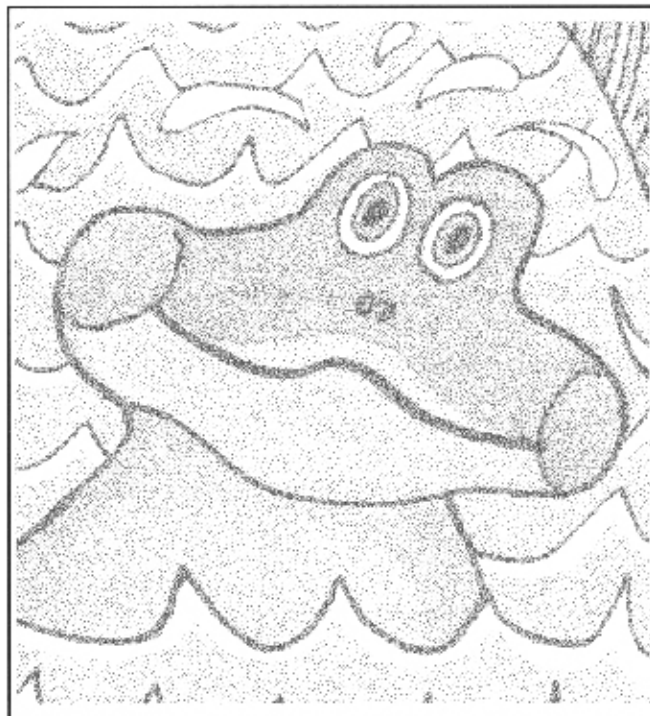
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From the book *The Foolish Frog* © 1955 renewed 1973 by
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Video/Film Curriculum Guide - 149

for

THE FOOLISH FROG

Themes: Pride/Humor

Grade Level: Pre-K-2

Running Time: 8 minutes, animated

SUMMARY

THE FOOLISH FROG, set to music, begins with a farmer strolling along a country road whistling a tune. The farmer meets a frog while stopping by a bridge. As he watches the frog leap from river bank to river bank, the frog tries to impress the farmer and ends up falling into the river. This gives the farmer inspiration for lyrics to his tune and he continues on his way, strumming his banjo and singing his new frog song. The farmer stops by a country store and insists on playing his song for the people there. As the story moves along, people, animals, barns, even blades of grass, join the people in the store, who are stomping their feet, eating soda crackers, and having a wonderful time dancing to the farmers song.

Soon, the frog hears the music from the store and realizes the song is about him. He is so excited he literally bursts with pride. This burst of pride becomes a major explosion which bursts open the country store. The people, animals, barns, and blades of grass are thrown up into the air and land safe and sound, right where they belong. The story ends with everyone out looking for the frog, who is nowhere to be found. Without the frog, there is nothing left but the song, and so they sing.... "Way down south...

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book *The Foolish Frog* with children.

Ask:

- Have you ever known a person who boasted all the time?
- What would you boast about?

(i.e. you can run the fastest, spell the best, eat the most.)

Take some time out for music and song in the classroom. Children may want to sing songs they are all familiar with, or teach one another new songs. Provide simple band instruments children can use to accompany themselves.

Invite a banjo player to the classroom. Have your guest share some music with children. Encourage children to ask questions of the banjo player regarding the instrument and the different kinds of music it can make.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Provide art supplies that children can use to create their own foolish frogs. When children have finished, have them sing several choruses of "The Foolish Frog", all the while making their "foolish frogs" leap through the air. You might want to have children share their creations and song with other classes.

Talk with children about the pride that both the farmer and the frog felt. Then ask:

- Why did the farmer feel proud?
- What did the farmer decide to do after feeling proud of his song?
- Was this a good idea? Why? Why not?
- Why did the frog feel proud?
- What did his feeling of pride cause him to do?
- Was this a good idea? Why? Why not?

Talk with children about the differences between pride and foolish pride as they consider the questions above.

Discuss with children the things they have done that they feel proud of. Have children share these things with their classmates through demonstration, storytelling, or by sharing photographs or objects that relate to their reasons for feeling proud. Stress that children have good accomplishments, for helping/caring for others, for learning something new, etc.