

“A Year with Frog and Toad” Musical

Educator’s Packet for Missouri K–2 Teachers

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1. ABOUT THE STORY & CHARACTERS

About the Story

A Year with Frog and Toad is a heartwarming, family-friendly musical based on the classic *Frog and Toad* book series by **Arnold Lobel**. The stories follow two best friends — Frog and Toad — as they share the simple pleasures of life throughout the changing seasons. From planting gardens to swimming, flying kites, and baking cookies, Frog and Toad’s adventures highlight the joys and challenges of friendship, kindness, and patience.

First published in 1970, *Frog and Toad Are Friends* introduced readers to these lovable companions. The books are cherished for their gentle humor, warm illustrations, and meaningful lessons, making them a staple in homes and classrooms alike. The musical adaptation, which was nominated for three Tony Awards, brings these treasured tales to life with catchy songs, vibrant storytelling, and playful energy — perfect for young audiences and the young at heart.

Meet the Characters

- **Frog**
Friendly, optimistic, and always calm, Frog is the thoughtful and encouraging half of the duo. He enjoys nature, problem-solving, and helping his friends see the brighter side of life.
- **Toad**
Toad is a bit grumpier, more anxious, and often prefers the comforts of his home — but he’s deeply loyal and cares deeply about his friends. His cautious nature often leads to humorous situations, but his heart is always in the right place.

Supporting Friends

- **Snail**

Determined but hilariously slow, Snail is given the important task of delivering the mail. His perseverance (and comedic timing) make him a crowd favorite.

- **Turtle, Mouse, and the Birds**

These woodland creature add fun, energy, and musical flair to Frog and Toad's adventures, each bringing their own personality to the changing seasons.

Together, these characters create a whimsical world full of laughter, life lessons, and the enduring value of friendship — just as Arnold Lobel imagined in his timeless books.

1. MISSOURI EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES & STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

Attending *A Year with Frog and Toad* offers students a rich educational experience that aligns with multiple **Missouri Learning Standards (MLS)** in both **English Language Arts (ELA)** and **Fine Arts: Theatre**. This live theatre experience supports classroom learning while encouraging literacy, critical thinking, emotional awareness, and social development.

English Language Arts – Reading, Listening & Drama

- **K.R.2.C.a** — *With assistance, identify characters in a puppet play or performance by actors.*
Students will observe and name the characters in the performance, reinforcing character identification skills in narrative comprehension.
- **1.R.2.C.a** — *Identify characters and dialogue in plays or performances by actors.*
By listening closely, students will recognize which characters are speaking and how dialogue advances the story.
- **2.R.2.C.a** — *Identify characters, setting, acts, and scenes in plays.*
Students will explore the structure of the play, identifying different scenes, settings, and how each part contributes to the whole story.
- **2.R.2.C.b** — *Identify the elements of dialogue and use them in informal plays.*
After the performance, students can practice creating their own dialogue between Frog, Toad, and other characters in classroom activities or dramatic play.

Fine Arts – Theatre

- **TH:Cr1A.2a / TH:Cr1A.2b / TH:Cr1A.2c** — *Co-create potential details to plot and story, conceptualize scenery, and explore voice and sound in storytelling.*
Students can extend their experience by designing scenes, props, and experimenting with voice and sound to retell or reimagine the story.

- **TH:Pr4A.2a** — *Interpret story elements in a guided drama experience.*
Viewing the performance helps students understand how story elements like character, setting, and plot are expressed through live theatre.
- **TH:Pr4A.2b** — *Alter voice and body to articulate character nuances.*
Students can reflect on how the actors portrayed characters using movement and voice, and apply these techniques in their own performances or roleplay.
- **TH:Pr5A.2c** — *Demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette for the venue and purpose.*
Attending a live performance gives students a firsthand opportunity to practice theatre etiquette, such as respectful listening, applauding appropriately, and engaging attentively.
- **TH:Re8A.2a / TH:Re8A.2b / TH:Re8A.2c** — *Reflect on emotions, motivations, and connections to characters.*
Post-show discussions encourage students to examine characters' choices, emotions, and how these relate to their own experiences and feelings.

Learning Outcomes

By participating in this live theatre experience, students will:

- Develop listening and comprehension skills.
- Recognize storytelling elements such as character, dialogue, and setting.
- Engage creatively through follow-up activities that involve dialogue writing and dramatization.
- Reflect on social-emotional themes like friendship, empathy, and problem-solving.
- Practice and understand audience behavior in cultural spaces.

This alignment ensures that *A Year with Frog and Toad* is not only entertaining but a valuable extension of Missouri K-2 curriculum goals.

3. FIELD TRIP LOGISTICS

We are thrilled to welcome your students to **Lower Lights Theatre Company's production of *A Year with Frog and Toad***! Below is essential information to help plan your visit.

Show Dates & Performance Times

- **Dates:** Thursday and Friday, October 9 & 10
- **Performance Times:** 9:30 AM (please arrive by 9:15 AM)
- **Run Time:** Approximately 60 minutes with no intermission

Ticketing Information

- **Student Ticket Price:** \$4 per student
- **Chaperone/Teacher Ticket Price:** \$4
- **Payment Due Date:** 9/24/25

- **Group Discounts:** Available for groups of 250 or more. \$3 per ticket purchased

Location & Directions

All performances will take place at:

McDonald County High School Performing Arts Center

100 Mustang Dr, Anderson MO

Directions:

From Joplin – Take I-49/US-71 to Anderson, about 34 miles. Take Exit 10. Turn west onto MO-76 and continue into Anderson, Missouri. Then, turn north onto MO-59 and proceed to Mustang Drive; 100 Mustang Drive will be clearly marked as McDonald County High School.

From Bentonville - Take I-49 /US-71 northbound for approximately 27 miles. Take Exit 10 for MO-76. Turn west onto MO-76 and continue into Anderson, Missouri. Then, turn north onto MO-59 and proceed to Mustang Drive; 100 Mustang Drive will be clearly marked as McDonald County High School.

Bus Drop-Off / Pick-Up

- Buses may drop off students directly at the main entrance of the Performing Arts Center.
- Parking attendants will guide buses to the designated parking area during the performance.
- Please arrive at least 15 minutes (9:15 am) prior to showtime for smooth entry.

Contact for Questions & Booking

For ticket reservations, accommodations, or questions:

Contact Name: Cheri Moore, Executive Director

Email: contact@lowerlightstheatre.org

Phone: 479-412-0623

We can't wait to welcome you and your students for a fun, educational, and inspiring day at the theater!

Please complete and return your group booking form by 9/16/25.

<https://forms.gle/mX2diNTqFedCmgq86>

Tickets can be purchased at

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a-year-with-frog-and-toad-field-trip-performances>

Both are linked at lowerlightstheatre.org/fieldtrips

4. PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Pre-Show Activities

(adapted from CTC's "Actor's Tools" warm-up)

- **"Project & Enunciate"**: Students say "A Year with Frog and Toad" projecting and enunciating.
- **Emotion Exploration**: Deliver lines like "Hello Frog!" in happy, sad, mad tones.
- **Gesture/Game**: Add physical gestures; volunteer students perform (images.childrenstheatre.org).

Standards: TH:Cr1A.2c, TH:Pr4A.2b, K-2 ELA drama standards.

5. INTRODUCTION TO DIALOGUE & INFORMAL PLAY

- Students brainstorm dialogue and act out short scenes (e.g., "Do you want some cookies?").
- Group improvisation: invent dialogue for Frog or Toad in a new setting.

Standards: 2.R.2.C.b, TH:Cr2A.2a, K-2 ELA drama.

6. THEATRE BEHAVIOR AND EXPECTATIONS

Theatre Behavior & Expectations

- Discuss theatre etiquette (quiet during scenes, applause, respect).
- Match behavior expectations to **TH.2c**.

7. DURING SHOW ENGAGEMENT

Teachers prompt students to:

- Note scene/act changes and how in this how those relate to seasons (**2.R.2.C.a**).
- Observe character traits via voice/body (**TH.2a/4A.2b**).
- Keep a visual notes sheet (stickers: happy, sad, surprised).

8. POST SHOW DISCUSSION & ACTIVITIES

- **Story Retelling**: Draw/sequence major events—Spring, Swimming, Letter, Cookies.
- **Character Connection**: How did Frog/Toad show friendship and emotions? (**TH.2a/2b/2c**)
- **Dialogue Creation**: Students draft a new scene with Frog and Toad (**2.R.2.C.b, TH.2a**).
- **Reflection Prompts**:
 - How did the characters' emotions match yours?
 - Which characters did you feel closest to and why?

9. CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS

Classroom Extensions

- **Literacy**: Compare book to musical; retell using transitions, dialogue.
- **Art**: Draw a scene; design a simple set or puppet.
- **SEL**: Discuss how friends solve problems and support each other.
- **Science**: Explore the four seasons through Frog & Toad's activities.

10. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Preview vocabulary & dialogue activities to share with families.
- Permission slip template with show overview.
- Reflective journaling prompts for after the performance.
- Recommended Frog & Toad books: *Frog and Toad Are Friends*, *Frog and Toad Together* ([Wikipedia](#), [Wikipedia](#), [Illinois Department of Natural Resources](#), [DCMP](#), [childrenstheatre.org](#), [Wikipedia](#)).
- Links to teacher resources and theatre lesson plan ideas.
- Contact info for Lower Lights Theatre Company and local school outreach program.