

## The Pond

### Character Breakdown:

Frank-Main Character/Pond Frog

Ollie-Child/Pet/Dragonfly

Goldie-Mentor/Goldfish

Bob-Mentor/Mutant Frog

Ancient Ones-Spiritual Guides/Koi

Mortimer-Villain/Praying Mantis

Ralph-Villain/Crocodile

Felica-Love Interest for Frank/Pond Frog

Cody-Love Interest for Goldie/Goldfish

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### Character Profile for Frank

Frank is an ordinary pond frog, he is green with dark green spots and when he expands his mouth sack it turns pink. Frank was born and raised in the pond by his natural parents, his mom is called Penny and his dad was called Moe. Frank was not real close to his mom, she never had much time to spend with him or his siblings because she was too busy just taking care of all 1000 of them. Fortunately, young, tadpole, Frank met Goldie, a goldfish who was thrown into the pond. He helped her learn her way around the pond and she taught him how to swim with his new legs; they became good friends, with Goldie taking on the role of friend and mentor. Frank's dad, Moe was different than his mom, he made sure to spend time with all of his children and teach them at least one thing. In Frank's case, Moe taught him how to master the technique of tonguing flies once he lost his tail. Unfortunately, that was not the only lesson Frank learned; he witnessed his father's death at the jaws of an alligator and has since developed distaste for going into the water and a paralysis at the mere mention or sight of an alligator in the pond. To take up the slack, Frank's uncle, Bob, looked after him. Bob was not quite a pond frog and saying he was an uncle is not entirely true either. Bob was a mutant frog. He was born many seasons ago and his mutation was caused from a temporary concentration of pollutants in the pond. Bob has 4 eyes, he has the normal set on the front of his face and he has a pair on the back of his head. This made it hard for Frank to pull one over on Bob and of course it made it easier for Bob to keep an eye on Frank.

Frank's mother, Penny, remarried after Moe's death and is still having children on the other side of the Pond.

Frank's sudden distaste for water posed a small problem for Frank and Bob. A pond frog needs to keep his skin moist and Frank doesn't want to go in the water. Bob came up with a solution that Frank has used since: He keeps a spray bottle full of water tucked away inside his mouth pouch and pulls it out whenever he starts feeling a little sticky. No one mentions the water bottle when Frank uses it so as not to upset him.

Frank's fear of water also hampered the normal education he would have received at the Pond School down below; instead he attended the Island School and based his studies on Island Entomology. Frank had a natural talent for working with insects outside of the flies that became his dinner. It was during this time that he was given an egg by Bob to help with his studies and his fear of water. Frank cared for the egg and named it Ollie; he quickly learned that Ollie was a dragonfly egg and that when it hatched it would need to live in water. With Bob's help, they built a water enclosure for when Ollie was ready to hatch. The enclosure was somewhat inland where no alligator could swim and had a secret entrance to the main pond; it was the only place where Frank felt safe to be in water again and it became known as the Sacred Grotto. Frank went through all the trouble to provide for and raise Ollie, because dragonflies were special on the pond. They were part of the Pond Guard that protected them all.

Frank graduated top in his class with honors for his work with dragonflies, but beyond the Sacred Grotto, Frank would still not venture into the water and kept his spray bottle handy.

Now that Ollie is fully grown and part of the Pond Guard, Frank can usually be found hanging out on his favorite lily pad near the center island in the middle of the pond. Frank is considered a good natured frog with a deep love for the environment he lives in; he shares this love by teaching classes in "Living with Insects" for the younger critters four days a week. When Frank is not teaching, he enjoys listening to the music of James Taylor, John Denver and the Steve Miller Band while he ponders how he is going to find a mate. Bob has been pressuring Frank to find a good girl and settle down, but Frank doesn't want just any girl. He believes that there is a perfect girl just for him; the only problem is finding her. All the girls he has met around the island seem to be focused on material goods and appearances; the girl he is looking for is what they call a cultural creative. Cultural creatives put spiritual concerns for each other and the environment above material goods and appearances; they put importance on the value of living. Frank is pretty sure the girl he is looking for can be found on the outer bank of the pond and is currently struggling between his fear of water/alligators and his desire to find a mate. Goldie tries to help him get over his fears during the day, but every night his fear returns as he watches the alligator float past the island

With the help of his friends and family, Frank will end up facing his fear and getting his girl in the end.

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### Character Profile for Ollie

Ollie is a dragonfly, his body color is a metallic purple with touches of metallic yellow/orange accents and his wings are a pale gold. Ollie was raised from an egg by Frank. Dragonflies hatch from eggs into their nymph phase. The nymph lives totally underwater until it pupates into the adult dragonfly form. This phase can last anywhere from 1 year to 5 years. Fortunately for Ollie and Frank, he was an early bloomer and only spent 2 years as a nymph.

Once Ollie emerged into his adult dragonfly form, Frank tied a string around Ollie's back so that he could still fly and strengthen his wings, but could not wander off and get hurt. Ollie looked much like a balloon for Frank at this time. One day while practicing flying, a praying mantis attacked Ollie. Goldie and Frank were able to thwart the attack but Ollie was injured. The mantis had damaged one of his wings.

Ollie was a little disheartened to have a broken wing because he was a dragonfly and dragonflies made up the Pond Guard. The Pond Guard patrolled the pond searching out any dangers to the pond critters. If a danger was spotted then, the dragonfly on Guard flew as fast as he could to alert the critters and summon the Koi Guard. Having a bum wing meant that Ollie could not fly fast enough to join the Pond Guard; instead he was relegated to the Pond Post once he was able to fly without being tied to a string. Ollie accepted this with optimism and secretly

exercised his broken wing with hopes of being able to fly faster. He believed that if he trained his broken wing hard enough, that one day he may still be able to fly for the Pond Guard. To keep motivated and for courage, Ollie often thought of the tale of Evinrude, a dragonfly, who flew for the Rescue Aid Society, he had learned the story as a nymph from the Ancient Ones in the water.

Despite his broken wing, Ollie is an upbeat, alert, energetic, outgoing dragonfly. He likes techno music and is often seen wearing head phones that make him look like he has four eyes instead of two. In his free time when he is not working out, he hunts for shiny stones found near the waters edge and has amassed quiet a collection that he glues together in unique patterns. He is kind to old critters and younger critters alike. Even though he is working for the Pond Post and not the Pond Guard, he is not resentful and does a good job getting the mail delivered on time no matter what the weather. Occasionally, some of the younger members of the Pond Guard will make fun of Ollie and his broken wing, but he brushes the words away, strong in his belief that good things come to those who work hard for them.

Eventually, Ollie proves he is a fast flyer; he faces an alligator with Frank and alerts the Koi Guard, and finally gets accepted to the Pond Guard.

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### Character Profile for Goldie

Goldie is a veil tailed, goldfish; she is mostly pearly white with patches of golden red of her head and sides, and rings of golden red around her eyes and mouth. All her fins are golden red except her dorsal fin and tail which are also tipped with white. Goldie's body is squat and round creating a contrast with her tail which is very long and can drape down like a veil or open up like a fan. Goldie is about the same age as Frank, but is three times his size and still growing.

Goldie was born in a pond to loving parents, but soon after was scooped out and sold to the local pet store. There she was bought (along with many of her siblings) by a Carnival hawker who worked the Ring Toss game. In this game you try to toss a ring into the open jars of water; each jar of water also holds a goldfish. If the ring goes in the jar the mark takes home a goldfish. So Goldie was won by a young boy and taken home. However, the young boy did not want to win a goldfish, he wanted to win one of the other prizes at the Carnival and in his disgust tossed Goldie into the pond behind his grandparent's house. All of this happened to Goldie over a three day period and by the time she landed in the pond, she was a stressed out wreck; her colors were all faded and the fins she had were all droopy (she was still very young and had not grown her long tail yet.)

Scared and lonely, the first critter Goldie met in the pond was a young tadpole, named Frank. He was very friendly and offered to show her around the pond and introduce her to the current residents. She accepted and in gratitude offered to help Frank learn how to swim with the legs he had started sprouting. Frank would hold onto Goldie's dorsal fin and kick while she swam and for fun Goldie would leap out of the water and do a somersault while Frank held on. Goldie often thought of herself as a Dolphin and loved practicing her somersaults. Her advice and support really helped Frank master swimming with appendages and they soon became good friends. Unfortunately, their friendship was hurt by Moe's death and Frank's distaste for water, but they soon found a way of keeping the lines of communication open even though they could no longer swim together.

Shortly after meeting Frank, Goldie soon learned that she was the only goldfish in the pond. The other fish were all Koi and most of them shunned her for having a different body type and no whiskers. The only Koi who did not shun her were called the Ancient Ones, they took her in and treated her like their own daughter. The Ancient Ones are the oldest Koi in the pond. They were born in the pond and have lived there for over a hundred years. They are considered wise and are sought out to hear disputes and settle accounts by all the pond critters; occasionally the Ancient Ones fall into a trance like state and predict events in the future. This tendency has caused the pond critters to nickname them the Oracle.

Goldie was glad to be accepted by the Ancient Ones and they proceeded to teach her their ways of wisdom. She was taught to accept others for what is inside and not to base opinions on appearances. She was taught that each critter has a purpose in the pond-good or bad; and she was taught that even the smallest critter can change the world. In addition to life lessons, part of Goldie's training was to learn the history of the pond. She learned of how the alligator came to the pond and that there have been many alligators over the years. The current alligator has only been here since the spring, but the pond critters think it is the same alligator that was responsible for the death of Frank's dad. Goldie learned that the current alligator is really a fake, that it is plastic and just floats wherever the wind blows it. The plastic alligator was placed there by the humans to keep the birds from eating the Koi. The Ancient Ones do not tell the pond critters the truth, because of what happened to Frank's dad; that was a real alligator and the pond critters need to be ever vigilant against them (the Koi Guard Warriors defeated the alligator). They have Goldie promise to keep it a secret. . Goldie is torn between becoming the new Pond Oracle and telling Frank the truth about the alligator. The Ancient Ones trained her to take over when they finally passed away and become the Oracle. The Oracle is the keeper of the histories of the pond and the teacher of the wisdoms to all pond critters.

By the time Goldie has learned the pond history she has grown bigger and Frank is attending the Island School and raising Ollie. Goldie is quiet, kind, and patient;

she is friendly and wise for her age. Most of the pond critters adore her and call her "Golden Sunshine". This usually makes her blush, as she is also shy and unaware of her beauty.

She is still in training to becoming the Oracle when Frank is starting to ponder about finding a mate. Goldie kept her word to the Ancient Ones and has not told Frank about the alligator, but she has increased her efforts to help him overcome his fears. Goldie believes that everyone should face their fears so that they can live their life without fear. However, Frank turns the tables on her and gets her wondering about a mate. She was so wrapped up in her training that she had no time to think about mating, but now she is worried, how is she supposed to find a mate?. There are no other goldfish in the pond; is she is destined to be alone?

Goldie does find a way to help Frank overcome his fears and face the alligator to get to the outer bank of the pond and search for his mate. Seeing her success in working with Frank, the Ancient Ones make her an Oracle (the youngest ever). To celebrate she returns to the spot where she was thrown into the pond and places a sculpture made by Ollie on the spot. While she adjusts it for the right light, a goldfish lands on her from above. Cody is a Comet Goldfish about her age and his fish tank broke, so his owner threw him in the neighbor's pond and here he is. What's your name? Beautiful?