

## Storytime Report by Denise A. Wallace

Group of children included pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and elementary ages; roughly 2 pre-K, 3 K and 2 elementary students. The group was all female with the exception of a 2 year old boy. Three parents were in attendance for the younger ages. Storytime took place on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 around 10:00am in the residence of Kim Fetterer (my cousin), who lives in Valdosta, GA. Her living room was transformed into a frog pond via the application of a large blue comforter and several construction paper lily pads that were used as seat mats. Smaller construction paper lilies were used for name placards.

Three books were used for this themed storytime. The theme was 'the pond' and the books were read as follows:

*In the Small, Small Pond*, Denise Fleming, Henry Holt & Company, 1998 paperback edition

*A Frog in the Bog*, Karma Wilson and Joan Rankin, Aladdin Paperbacks, 2007 paperback edition

*Stick*, Steve Breen, Dial Books for Young Readers, 2006 Hardcover edition

Storytime started with an introduction to the theme and I asked who had ever been to a pond? Several kids raised their hands. Then I asked what kind of animals were found at the pond and was told: ducks, frogs, turtles, geese, alligators... Then I asked what sound does a frog make and was greeted with a chorus of 'ribbits'.

After reading the first book, I introduced my froggy finger puppet and asked the oldest child (really too old for this age group) to assist me as I read a poem by Ilo Orleans called "The Frog on the Log." She did a good job interpreting what to do with the frog as he needed to play on a log, and hide from an owl before he splashed into the safety of water and under the vacant lily pad.

During the next reading we all emphasized how the frog got 'a little bit bigger' and this time followed with an activity that allowed the kids to stand up and activate. I used the ditty "Five Little Froggies" and told the children that when I said 'froggies jumped high' they were to raise their hands high in the air instead of jumping for safety reasons, and when I said 'froggies jumped low' they were to crouch down low; and finally when I said 'froggies jumped everywhere to and fro' they were to stand back up and wriggle their bodies in place. This worked very well to energize the kids and help them imagine being more like froggies.

After the last book, I brought out my froggie finger puppets (five in all) and placed them on my lap as I read the ditty about the 'Five Frisky Frogs'. As each frog was removed, I hopped it from my lap into the pond and at the end brought them all back again before I said goodbye and ended the storytime.

Afterwards snacks were served and the kids were sent outside to play.

The kids seemed to like the last book the best and did not get into the second book as much as I thought they would. I might be the varied age group or my inexperience as a storyteller. The last book was

more of a show and tell where the kids had to really look to see what was happening and they liked that. The activity that got the kids active worked best. Admittedly one of the kids ran around and another complained during the whole time to their parent, but the youngest one settled down toward the end. I noticed that the kids with parents seated behind them were more attentive and would recommend this practice for all future storytimes; in addition keeping the age groups separate would really help out the older kids.

Outline:

We will have to schedule a 10am time slot as I have to go to the archive later in the day. The storytime only needs to last 30 minutes. Here is the line up:

-Invite children into small room where the pond and lily pads are set up. Have children sit on pads with parents nearby.

-Opening activity where I tell the child my frog name and the child tells me his or her frog name, write their name on a paper lily flower and place near their pad.

-Explain the theme and open bag with finger puppet frog: Today we will meet some frogs. What sound does a frog make? Ribbit, Ribbit.

-Read "In the Small, Small Pond" by Denise Fleming (Can you spot the frog?)

-Activity with finger puppets:

### **The Frog on the Log**

There once  
Was a green  
Little frog, frog, frog -

Who played  
In the wood  
On a log, log, log!

A screech owl  
Sitting  
In a tree, tree, tree -

Came after  
The frog  
with a scree, scree, scree!

When the frog

Heard the owl -  
In a flash, flash, flash -

He leaped  
In the pond  
With a splash, splash, splash!  
*~Ilo Orleans~*

-Read "A Frog in the Bog" by Karma Wilson

-Activity where kids can stand up: When I say 'high' raise your hands in the air, when I say 'low' crouch down, when I say 'to and fro' wriggle in place.

### **FIVE LITTLE FROGGIES**

Five little froggies sitting on a well  
One leaned over and in he fell.  
And the froggies jumped high,  
And the froggies jumped low,  
And the froggies jumped everywhere,  
To and fro!

Four little froggies sitting on a well  
One leaned over and in he fell.  
And the froggies jumped high,  
And the froggies jumped low,  
And the froggies jumped everywhere,  
To and fro!.

*Count down to none!*

-Read "Stick" by Steve Breen

-Activity with finger puppets:

Five Frisky Frogs

Submitted by Tina

Five little frisky frogs, hopping on the shore (hold up five fingers)  
One hopped into the pond -SPLASH!! (jump out)  
So then there were just four, four little frisky frogs (hold up four fingers)  
Climbing up a tree, one fell into the grass, BOOM! (pretend to fall)  
So then there were just three, three little frisky frogs (hold up three fingers)  
Bathing in the dew, one caught a sneezy cold A-CHOO (sneeze)  
So then there were just two, two little frisky frogs (hold up two fingers)

Sleeping in the sun, One slept the day away, SNORE! (pretend to sleep)  
So then there was just one, one little frisky frog (hold up one finger)  
Sitting on a stone, let's call his four friends back, Yoo-hoo, Yoo-hoo  
So he won't be alone.

-Goodbye froglets!