



**Tickets: [thalian.org](http://thalian.org)**

**910-251-1788**

**or**

**CAC box office**

**910-341-7860**

# Teacher Resource Guide and Lesson Plan Activities

*Featuring general information about our production along with some creative activities to help you make connections to your classroom curriculum before and after the show.*

The production and accompanying activities address North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts, Goal A.1: Analyze literary texts & performances.

**Look for this symbol for other curriculum connections.**



## *A Year with Frog and Toad*

Music by Robert Reale, Book and lyrics by Willie Reale,

Based on the books by Arnold Lobel

A Year With Frog And Toad is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

**January 19 - 28, 2018**

**7:30 PM Friday - Saturday and 3:00 PM Sunday**

Hannah Block Historic USO / Community Arts Center  
Second Street Stage 120 South 2nd Street (Corner of Orange)



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## About this Teaching Resource

This Teaching Resource is designed to help build new partnerships that employ theatre and the arts. By using the guide, students will see how *A Year with Frog & Toad*, offers them the opportunity to develop their understanding of national identities and diversity (Citizenship), support their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills (English), explore issues related to personal identities (Personal Well Being) and develop their creative skills (Performing Arts). Learning about how *A Year with Frog & Toad*, was created will make viewing the show a richer experience for young people.

## About the Musical

Friendship is the secret to a happy life in this 2003 Tony nominated musical that celebrates our differences with fun, flair and ... amphibians. *A Year With Frog and Toad* is a combination of adventures from Arnold Lobel's prize winning beginning reader series *Frog and Toad Are Friends*, *Frog and Toad Together*, *Days With Frog and Toad*, and *Frog and Toad All Year*. Meet Frog and Toad: best friends and complete opposites in just about every way. Follow them and their other friends through the year as they wake up from hibernation, plant seeds, go swimming, bake and eat cookies, fly a kite, rake leaves, tell stories, go sledding, celebrate Christmas and go into hibernation all over again! A truly charming story that celebrates diversity and what it takes for true friendship.

## About Thalian Association Community Theatre

Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded in 1788, to provide arts education & bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina & produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall. In fact, Thalian Hall was proudly named for our organization in 1858. Our mission is to present quality live theatre that illuminates the human experience for the citizens of Wilmington, New Hanover County and beyond. We teach life skills through theatre education and provide an outlet for artists and technicians to develop and exercise their crafts. Established over 38 years ago Thalian Association Youth Theatre is an extension of Thalian Association Community Theatre non-profit organization & is dedicated to the enrichment of arts education for our community's youth. We offer Academy classes in Drama, Song & Dance, Improvisation & Musical Theatre Technique, aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education. Thanks to generous support from the Landfall Foundation and Wilmington East Rotary we provide arts enhancement classes for the Community Boys & Girls Club, the Brigade Boys & Girls Club and the Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington. Special school performances for A. H. Snipes Academy of Arts & Design are made possible by a grant from Corning Incorporated Foundation. We want to turn out great theatre artists as well as great doctors, lawyers, teachers and bankers. Thalian Youth Theatre is about developing collaborative & thoughtful members of our community.

# Synopsis

It's Spring! Frog wakes up from winter hibernation, but Toad would rather sleep till May. When he finally wakes up, he decides to plant a garden. He is impatient, wanting the seeds to grow right away. Frog tells Toad to wait and his seeds will grow. Soon they do. Toad is very excited, except he has no mail. So, Frog writes him a letter and asks Snail to deliver it. Now, Spring has turned to Summer. Frog and Toad decide to go for a swim. Toad thinks he looks funny in his bathing suit, and he tries to slip unseen into the water. But the animals come to look at Toad in his suit, where everyone laughs at him. After the swim, Toad decides to invite Frog on a picnic, but finds a note on Frog's door that says he has gone away to be alone. Toad is afraid Frog is upset with him, and goes out to find him. He discovers Frog has just gone away to think of the things that make him happy— and the happiest is having Toad for a friend! Snail continues on his quest to deliver the letter to Toad. The leaves change colors, and now it is Fall. In the cool weather, Frog and Toad do all kinds of fun things together: bake cookies, fly kites, and rake leaves. One night, Frog decides to tell Toad a ghost story of the "Large and Terrible Frog." Toad is scared, but feels better when the story has a happy ending. Winter arrives, and Frog and Toad go sledding. Frog falls off the sled, which sends Toad on a dangerous and bumpy path. Toad is angry that Frog made him sled down the steep hill. Snail finally arrives with the letter that Frog had sent to Toad months earlier. The letter says how Frog is only happy when his friend Toad is happy. Toad forgives Frog, and Snail is proud to have delivered his first letter! They celebrate one more time on Christmas Eve, even though Frog is a little late because he was wrapping Toad's Christmas present. It is time yet again for hibernation, and another year ends for Frog and Toad.

## Characters In The Play:

**Frog:** Toad's best friend. He is usually cheerful and happy, and very kind.

**Toad:** Frog's best friend. He is sometimes a little grumpy, but he always means well.

**Snail:** He is very slow but is happy to have been trusted to deliver a letter from FROG to TOAD.

**Birds, Squirrels, Turtle And Mouse:** Sometimes mischievous animals who help tell the story.

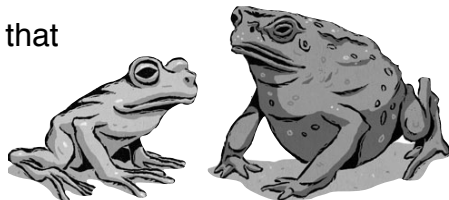
## Toads & Frogs...

Although many people believe that frogs and toads are completely different creatures, the truth is a bit more complicated. Frogs and toads are both members of the same class — **Amphibia** — which means that they're both amphibians. Amphibians are cold-blooded vertebrates that spend the early part of their lives in water breathing with gills and the rest of their lives on land breathing with lungs.

In addition, frogs and toads are also both members of the same order — **Anura** — which means they're closely related and share many similar characteristics. The popular distinction drawn between frogs and toads is probably best viewed as a distinction between true "frogs" (members of the **Ranidae** family) and true "toads" (members of the **Bufo** family). Here are some of the differences you may notice:

### Frogs:

- Need to live near water to survive.
- Have smooth, moist skin that may look or seem slimy.
- Have a narrow body with round eyes that bulge.
- Have long hind legs that help them take long, high jumps.
- Have many predators.



### Toads:

- Don't need to live near water to survive.
- Have rough, dry, bumpy skin.
- Have a wide body with oval eyes that don't bulge.
- Have short hind legs to take small hops rather than jumps.
- Have few predators because their skin has a bitter taste and smell.

Can you find any more similarities? Do some research with your class, and see how many more differences you can find between the two groups. List them on the board or on a chart.



# Activities

## Vocabulary enrichment

Hibernation	an inactive state, especially in winter
Rutabaga	a larger rounded yellowish root cooked as a vegetable
Deliver	to bring or transport to the proper place or person refreshing adj. pleasingly fresh or different
Hubbub	a confusing situation
Escargot	French word for snail
Indisputable	beyond doubt, undeniable
Surprise	to discover suddenly, without warning
Stroll	a leisurely walk
Leisurely	done without haste, slowly
Lurks	to wait out of view, sneak
Magnanimous	generous and fair

*The only way to have a friend,  
is to be one!*

## Happiness Collage

In *A Year with Frog and Toad*, Frog takes some time to be alone and think of all the things that make him happy. Ask your students what makes them happy. Using pictures from magazines and pictures they draw themselves, have them create a collage of all the things that make them really happy. Hang them up in your room to remind them everyday of these wonderful things! Notice what things they have in common with other students in the class. What things are different?

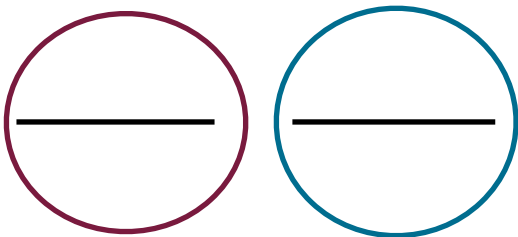
## A walk in the park

In the show, you get to spend a whole year with Frog and Toad! The year is divided into seasons. With your students, discuss the seasons and how they change the weather outside. Tell them they are going to take a walk around the room as though they are walking through a park. As they are walking, announce these changes in the weather and season. Ask them to react to these changes.

Here are some examples : "It's spring. It is sunny and bright; the flowers have just started to bloom. Can you smell the flowers? Oh no, a spring rain! Do you have an umbrella? Is it cold rain or warm rain? Now it is changing from spring to summer. It starts to get very hot. The sun is brighter now. How does that affect the way you move? Are you going slower or faster? Find some shade and have a cool drink. The leaves are starting to change colors, it's becoming fall. The leaves are dropping from the trees. Rake them up before the wind blows them all away. The wind is blowing harder now, winter is coming. Put your coats because snow is falling. Catch a snow flake on your tongue. Next, let's have a snowball fight!"

## Compare and Contrast

Pick two characters from *A Year with Frog & Toad*, to compare and contrast. What do they have in common? What makes them different?



## Be an animal!

There are a lot of different animals in the play, and they each move and behave differently. Have your students try to embody different animals.

1. Slither, creep, crawl, hop, leap, lope, prance, stalk. Don't forget animal sounds!
2. Study pictures of animals and how they move and live.
3. Ask students to guess which animal is being acted out?



# Buttons Buttons

Start the lesson by reading the entire story of Frog and Toad Are Friends. Then, distribute bags of buttons to small groups of students. Direct them to empty the bags onto their tables. Reread the story, stopping after each description Toad provides to allow students to eliminate buttons that couldn't possibly be Toad's. At the conclusion of the reading, one button should remain. Ask students to describe the remaining button. Distribute copies of the "Buttons! Buttons!" Activity Sheet to the students provided by: [illuminations.nctm.org](http://illuminations.nctm.org).

## Buttons Buttons Activity Sheet

Direct students to cross off buttons that Toad says are not his after carefully reading each of the clues at the top of the page. After the final clue is read, one button that is not crossed off should remain on the activity sheet.

Ask students to describe the remaining button in the space provided. Encourage students to discuss how they eliminated groups of buttons; for example, if the button is not black, it must be white. Check the activity sheet by rereading the story.

After checking the activity sheet, provide students with a collection of buttons. Ask them to choose one of the buttons secretly and hold a class discussion to help others guess which button they have selected.

Students can create a similar set of clues and have other students determine which buttons should be eliminated and which one button would remain.

## Writing Prompts

- Frog and Toad are the best of friends. What qualities make a good friend? Who is your good friend? How did the two of you meet each other?
- When Toad tried to plant a garden, he wanted the seeds to grow immediately! Toad was being impatient. Frog told Toad to wait. What are the qualities of waiting? Why do we sometimes need to wait for things?
- Frog and Toad are the best of friends. They spend a lot of time together, do a lot of things together and sometimes irritate each other. They are very different from one another. Often times this type of combination makes for the best friendships. How are you similar to your friend? Different? Do you always get along with your friend? What is it about your friend that you like the most?
- The characters sing thoughts and feelings that are too strong for words. They reveal information about themselves and others through song. Lyrics and melodies that make up songs often stay with you long after you've heard them. Can you think of a song from a movie, musical or even a commercial that has stayed stuck in your head?
- In the play, Frog and Toad eat so many cookies that they fear they will become sick. Is there something that you like to eat or drink so much that you can't stop yourself, even when you fear that you will get sick? If you know that eating so much of something will make you sick, why do you continue to eat it?

## Fill in the Blanks

Frog and Toad are \_\_\_\_\_.  
They fly a \_\_\_\_\_.  
They eat \_\_\_\_\_ together.  
The birds to \_\_\_\_\_ for the winter.  
Frog and Toad rake each other's \_\_\_\_\_.  
Snail delivers a \_\_\_\_\_.



**N.C. Common Core Standards SL.2:** Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. **NC Essential Standards Health Education 2.MEH.1.3:** Explain the influence of peers, the media, and the family on feelings and emotions. **HealthEd.(K-2).MEH.1:** Understand the relationship among healthy expression of emotions, mental health, and healthy behavior.

## Discussion Questions

1. Do you have a best friend? What kinds of things do you like to do together?
2. How are Frog and Toad different from each other? Have you ever had a friend who was different than you, and how so?
3. Why do you think Toad is so gloomy sometimes? Is there any advice you'd give him?
4. How do Frog and Toad treat each other over the course of the play?
5. Why does Frog decide to write Toad a letter?
6. Would you have asked Snail to deliver a letter? Why or why not?
7. Not too long ago, writing letters and having them delivered by messengers like Snail were the only means to talk to someone or send news from far away. What kinds of inventions and technology have made it possible to get news and information more quickly? Brainstorm a list.
8. Frog and Toad spend the seasons together doing different things outside and in their homes. What is your favorite season? Why?
9. During the winter, Frog and Toad both hibernate. Can you think of other animals that hibernate? Why do you think they do this?
10. In the fall, Frog and Toad decide to rake each other's leaves as a surprise. Why do they each decide to do this? Can you think of a time when you did a chore or a nice thing for someone to surprise them? How did it make you feel?
11. In the play Toad goes swimming but doesn't want to show anyone his bathing suit, because he thinks he looks funny in it. The other animals tease him a little bit. Is there ever a time when you have felt embarrassed or shy because of how you might look to others? Have you ever been teased (or teased others) because of something you wore to school?

### Find the hidden words in the puzzle

cried      replied      tried  
worried      carried      copied  
married      studied      hurried

B	H	T	U	Q	U	V	R	E	P	L	I	E	D	Y	W
I	O	F	M	A	R	R	I	E	D	D	A	U	T	A	O
X	F	U	S	C	E	F	O	W	V	M	K	R	Q	S	R
C	R	V	T	X	A	A	Q	Y	N	T	X	U	H	X	R
O	I	Z	U	S	Y	P	H	U	R	R	I	E	D	S	I
F	E	P	D	J	C	A	R	R	I	E	D	T	I	W	E
K	D	Y	I	W	Q	C	O	P	I	E	D	R	I	X	D
Z	O	Y	E	F	C	M	N	C	K	T	W	I	T	F	H
Q	H	A	D	T	W	Z	Z	R	Z	D	Y	E	G	Y	H
G	F	Q	T	O	L	Q	R	I	E	P	M	D	P	J	M
Y	G	T	Q	R	O	G	Z	E	G	D	Y	W	B	S	K
C	W	B	E	N	M	Z	Q	D	S	K	T	W	X	J	N

## Theatre Corner

### What is the job of the Producer?

The job of the producer is to concern yourself with just about every aspect of the show, both the creative elements, and, of course, all of the business & financial elements. When it comes to the artistic and creative elements, certainly you look to your director, your choreographer and your writers to take the lead in presenting the show in the best possible way from an artistic point of view. But your job is to keep that collaboration together and working smoothly. There's nobody else on the creative team whose responsibility it is to make sure that everyone else is working in tandem. All the creative forces in the show need to be working together, on time, in coordination with one another. And the person who needs to be on top of that is the producer.



North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts 3.A.1.2: Evaluate formal or informal theatre productions. North Carolina Essential Standards in Visual Art: 2.V.2.3: Create art from real & imaginary sources of inspiration. 3.V.1.2. Understand that artists use their art to express personal ideas. 4.V.1.2. Apply personal choices while creating art.




### Music and Theatre Vocabulary:

**Accompaniment:** Vocal or instrumental parts that accompany a melody. **Costume:** Any clothing worn by an actor on stage during a performance. **Harmony:** The simultaneous sounding of two or more tones. **Melody:** An organized sequence of musical notes. **Musical Theatre:** A type of entertainment containing music, songs and usually dance. **Tempo:** The pace at which music moves according to the speed of an underlying beat. **Vocal Quality:** The characteristics of a voice, such as shrill, nasal, raspy, breathy, booming, to name a few.



## Youth Theatre Academy Classes

Over 38 years ago Thalian Association Community Theatre **established the Youth Theatre** program dedicated to the enrichment of arts education for our community's youth. 

**We offer affordable classes** in Drama, Song & Dance, Improvisation & Musical Theatre Technique that are **aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education, N.C. Essential Standards in Theater Arts & N.C. Common Core.**

**Starting as young as three years old (in TACT Tots)** all the way to high school seniors, we have something for everyone! Classes are offered **downtown** at the **Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center Building** & **mid-town** at the **First Baptist Activity Center.**

**Thalian Association Youth Theatre Academy** is the place to be if you want to **learn “the ropes”** from **local professional artists currently working in their field.** 

If you are an **aspiring performer** or just want to **build confidence & make new friends**, check out [thalian.org](http://thalian.org) for more information on the **Youth Academy.**

**Learn what it is like to be part of a show. Join the Theatre Community!**



***Next on stage:***

***Disney's Tarzan***  
***April 27 - May 6, 2018***

Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center

Study Guide References: theatre works, Wikipedia, Field Guide for Teachers produced by StageNOTES, [npublicschools.org](http://npublicschools.org), [playbill.com](http://playbill.com), [commoncore.org](http://commoncore.org), essential standards, kennedy center, BMI, [illuminations.nctm.org](http://illuminations.nctm.org).