



TEACHER'S NOTES

NOTES PREPARED

by Sofia Goodsoul

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FROG TODD

Type of text: *Picture book*

Author: *Sofia Goodsoul*

Illustrator: *Marina Kite*

Publisher: *VOLYA PRESS*

Price:

Paper cover: \$9.95

Hard cover: \$19.95

E-book: \$8.00

ISBN: 9780994324238 (*hardback*)

ISBN: 9780994324245 (*paperback*)

ISBN: 9780994324269 (*e-book*)

Publication Date: *October 2015*

Audience: *Children aged 4–8*

Number of Pages: 32

Illustrations: 22 + 4 colouring pages in black & white

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

Creator: Goodsoul, Sofia, author.

Title: Frog Todd / Sofia Goodsoul ; Marina Kite, illustrator.

Target Audience: For pre-school age.

Subjects: Frogs--Juvenile fiction. Emotions--Juvenile fiction. Stories in rhyme.

Other Creators/Contributors: Kite, Marina, illustrator.

Dewey Number: A823.4

SYNOPSIS

A frog named Todd lives in Blue Pond. Todd has a kind and friendly nature, but he is unhappy. The neighbouring frogs tease Todd because his name sounds like “toad.” “Are you frog or are you toad?” they ask. One day, Todd decides to leave home and start a new life ...

The children will experience the whole spectrum of emotions while on the journey with Todd. They will feel Todd’s pain when his name is twisted by other frogs in Blue Pond. Also, they will feel sorry for the animals trapped in different circumstances, and will feel proud and happy when Todd helps them all and meets his real friend.

This book suits readers aged 4–8, and will be cherished by families and recommended by teachers and librarians. It is a wonderful addition to your home or school library.

AUTHOR BACKGROUND

Sofia Goodsoul is an author, current emergency kindergarten teacher, publisher and mother. Her poetry writing has grown from a hobby into a great passion. Now she can't live a day without writing poems, riddles and stories for young children. In her rhyming stories Sofia passes vital messages to young readers. The children give themes and inspiration for her books.

FROG TODD is Sofia’s first rhyming picture book. Sofia lives in one of the south eastern suburbs of Melbourne with her family and pets. She loves going to Zumba classes at Fernwood fitness club and long walks with her husband and a family dog Mack. All her spare time Sofia dedicates to her writing and publishing career. You can find out more about Sofia by visiting her website at

www.sofiagoodsoul.com.au

ILLUSTRATION STYLE

The illustration style is rich with a palette of green, blue, pinks and yellow. The colours and style of illustrations attract children’s attention and invite to explore pictures in details. The illustrations are created by watercolours and ink.

FROG TODD *Links to the EYLF's principles and outcomes*

Learning Outcome – **Community**. “Children are connected with and contribute to their world.” (EYLF 2009)

Fundamental – **Becoming**.

I have used the allegory in this story. The main character is a boy with a kind nature growing into a responsible for the living world around individual. He helps everyone who need his assistance.

Learning Outcome - **Communication**. “Children are effective communicators.” (EYLF 2009)

Fundamental - **Belonging**. Relationships are critical to a sense of belonging. “Belonging is central to being and becoming in that it shapes who children are and who they can become.” (EYLF 2009)

Todd belongs to Blue Pond, but he is unhappy as neighbouring frogs make fun of his name. He sets off to find the place where he would feel safe and happy to belong to.

Learning Outcome – **Identity**. “Children have a strong sense of identity” (EYLF 2009)

Fundamental – **Being**. “Being recognises the significance of the here and now in children’s lives.” (EYLF 2009)

Personal name is the main identity. People recognised by their names. “But Todd’s name was his big pain in the sun and in the rain...”, as other frogs in Blue Pond didn’t respect his name and twisted it, making fun.

Learning Outcome – **Wellbeing**. “Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

3.1 Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.” (EYLF 2009)

Fundamental – **Being**. “Being recognises the significance of the here and now in children’s lives.” (EYLF 2009)

In the beginning of the story Todd is emotionally vulnerable, but his self-esteem grows with each help he gives to little creatures on his way.

Learning Outcome – **Learning**. “Children are confident and involved learners” (EYLF 2009)

Fundamental - **Becoming**. “Becoming reflects the process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as children learn and grow.” (EYLF 2009)

During his trip, Todd learns that he makes his name BIG by helping others in difficult circumstances.

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Literacy

Numeracy

Science

The Arts

Health and Physical Education

THEMES

Peer relationships

Emotions

Forgiveness

Hope

Help

Love

Creativity

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

1. What inspired you to produce FROG TODD?

In recent years, the problem of bullying in schools has become widely recognised, especially by teachers. But this issue in preschools and kindergartens, in my opinion, has been overlooked. I have been working as an emergency kindergarten teacher over 10 years, and have observed hundreds of cases of this behaviour when relieving in early childhood settings. As a teacher, I recognise our important educational role in guiding a child's social and emotional development and wellbeing. Calling or twisting other students' or teachers' names is one of the forms of bullying, which has to be addressed as early as possible to avoid further complications in children's lives. I was searching for acceptable literature for young children on this issue with a little success, when came to a decision to create FROG TODD.

2. Some publishers discourage rhyming texts. What has been the reaction to this one?

The problem with rhyming books for publishers is the complicity of selling copyrights to foreign publishers. It's not easy to translate rhyming texts into other languages, and as a result the publishers don't want to deal with rhyming books. I faced this problem with FROG TODD as well. It's when I decided to become a self-publisher.

3. Will you tell us something about the illustrating process?

As a self-publisher, I incorporate multiple roles. One is finding the right illustrator for the book. I went through hundreds of portfolios and test designs before finding a talented and very experienced children's book illustrator Marina Kite. Together with Marina, we designed the book's illustrations. I developed the very explicit instructions for Marina describing what I see on each page of the book. She came up with lots of great ideas as well.

4. Are you planning more outings for Todd?

I am considering to team up Todd with his new friend Lily and sending them on their new adventures around Australia. Todd will be carrying his tricky sticks, which assisted him in the story.

5. How long did the process of producing Frog Todd last?

Writing FROG TODD was the fastest part of the whole publishing process, which is very complex, taking into account my first experience in this industry. The most interesting and time consuming part was illustrating and designing the book. All up has taken around nine months from writing to printing.