

The Great And Glorious Mr. Toad

Book, Music and Lyrics by Ron Lytle



Teacher Guide

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East Bay Children's Theatre

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www.ebctheatre.com

Welcome!

DEAR TEACHERS and ADMINISTRATORS:

Hip Hip Hooray! We're so excited to be at your school with our new production of....

THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS MR.TOAD!

This show is jam-packed with music, laughter, emotion, and most importantly...fun! Your students will have the pleasure of experiencing live theatre in front of them at their school. For some students this will be the first and maybe only time that they experience a live performance; so we at EBCT want to thank you for choosing us to bring quality theatre to your students.

Our goal at EBCT is to make sure that every student in the Bay Area has the opportunity to see a piece of live theatre before they leave Elementary school and you're helping us fulfill our mission. So THANK YOU!

In this Teaching Guide you will find all sorts of information, fun facts, and most importantly tie-ins and activities for your classroom! Need some standards to back up what your students are going to see in this production? Check! Need an engaging art activity? We've got that! Want to bring some mindfulness into your classroom with a thought-provoking journal assignment? We've got you covered!

This guide is stuffed with information for everyone, teacher or administrator, to use and enjoy! So what are you waiting for? Give it a read and let's get the show on the road!



About the Author

Kenneth Grahame was born more than one hundred years ago, in Edinburgh, Scotland. Sadly, he and his brothers and sisters lost their mother. However, they were then sent to England to live with their grandmother which is where Grahame began exploring the English countryside. They lived in a house near the Thames (pronounced Tim's) River, where Grahame and his siblings were very happy. He was fascinated to observe all the wild animals and their ways and habits.

When he grew up and married, he and his wife had one child, a son named Alistair, who was disabled. Kenneth began to tell him bedtime stories about the animals, to help him go to sleep. Those stories became The Wind in the Willows, which is the book that the musical, *The Great and Glorious Mr. Toad*, is based on. It was published in 1932, but even today it is popular in England, because everyone loves the characters of Ratty (who is actually a Water Vole), and Mole, Badger and Toad. Some people say that Toad is a portrait of Alistair, because, even though he had a disability, he was often very naughty, and liked to show off, the way Toad does.

Hello! I'm Kenneth Grahame! I hope you like my book!



JOKE CORNER:

What is Toad's favorite drink?

Hot Croak-co!

To give students a taste of the original book, it would be fun for them to hear some parts of the [first chapter read aloud](#):

"The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home. First with brooms, then with dusters; then on ladders and steps and chairs, with a brush and a pail of whitewash; till he had dust in his throat and eyes, and splashes of whitewash all over his black fur, and an aching back and weary arms. Spring was moving in the air above and in the earth below and around him, penetrating even his dark and lowly little house with its spirit of divine discontent and longing. It was small wonder, then, that he suddenly flung down his brush on the floor, said, "Bother!" and "O blow!" and also "Hang spring-cleaning!" and bolted out of the house without even waiting to put on his coat. Something up above was calling him imperiously, and he made for the steep little tunnel which answered in his case to the graveled carriage-drive owned by animals whose residences are nearer to the sun and air. So he scraped and scratched and scabbled and scrooged, and then he scrooged again and scabbled and scratched and scraped, working busily with his little paws and muttering to himself, "Up we go! Up we go!" till at last, pop!"

Excerpt from
The Wind In the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

About Our Play

Play Synopsis:

Mr. Toad loves new inventions: especially if they are loud, big, and really expensive! His friends, Rat, Mole, and Badger love him, but they have decided that enough is enough. Something must be done about Toad because he is running amuck! Meanwhile, the tough Weasel gang has decided to give Toad a lesson of their own. They trick him into buying a stolen car and watch as he is carted off to jail. While Toad is in jail they steal his house and throw a big Weasel party.

When Toad manages to get out of jail with the help of Eliza, the prison warder's daughter, he and his friends create a plot to win back his house and to prove Toad's innocence. Will they be successful? Will the good guys win the day? Watch our play and find out!

OUR CHARACTERS	PERSONALITY
Mr. Toad	Larger than life with a flair for the dramatic, conceited and boastful, but good-natured and affectionate.
Rat	Cool and reserved, but with a warm heart and protective. Inseparable best friend to Mole.
Mole	Naïve, sweet and kind. Best friend to Rat.
Badger	Grumpy and determined to reform Toad.
Eliza	Young woman who works in the laundry in the jail. Is a bit sad, but loves animals.
Warden	Confused leader of a group of bumbling policeman (called "bobbies").
Beezer Weazel	The head of the Weasels
Mrs. Hovington Covington Fat Cat	Rich, highly cultured, upper crust but utterly silly and somewhat befuddled.

About Our Playwright

Since 2005, **Ron Lytle** has been the resident musical playwright for the East Bay Children's Theatre, creating ten original musicals (book, music and lyrics) based on children's literature for the company.

Ron began his career as a singer and dancer in musical theatre, onstage alongside celebrities such as Debbie Reynolds, James Earle Jones, and JoAnne Worley. A member of A.S.C.A.P. and the Dramatist Guild, he has authored many children's books and composed over twenty produced musicals.

For more information about Ron's accomplishments as an award-winning writer, composer/lyricist and director, please visit www.RonLytle.com.

About Our Company

Since 1933, **East Bay Children's Theatre's** main purpose has been to bring the heritage of traditional folk and fairytales to elementary schools in Oakland and the surrounding areas. Our programs are FREE to Title One schools. Through our productions we strive to highlight important moral lessons that promote positive values and strengthen self-esteem of children. We reach over 9,000 students a year and are excited to continue making theatre accessible to all children for many more years to come!

For more information about our company, please visit our website: www.ebctheatre.com

JOKE CORNER:

Why are toads good
baseball players?

They always catch the
FLIES!



Who “shapes” a play?

Set Designer

They design the set or the scenery of a play. That’s everything from backdrops to walls, trees, to cars!

Costume Designer or Seamstress

They design , make, or buy the clothes that they actors wear during the show.

Technical Crew

They set up the set and all of the equipment for the shows.

Stage Manager

They make sure that everything stays on time. They keep track of the actors during rehearsal and the show. Sometimes they run lights, sound boards, and drive the tour van.

These are just **SOME** of the jobs in theatre.
If you want to learn about more, check out:

[Theatre Craft’s Website](#)

California State Learning Standards

This show is appropriate for students in Kindergarten and up!

Reading Comprehension

- 2.2 Respond to who, what, when, where, and how questions.
- 2.3 Connect to life experiences the information and events in texts. 2.4 Retell familiar stories.
- 2.5 Ask and answer questions about essential elements of a text.

Literary Response

- 3.1 Identify and describe the elements of plot, setting, and character(s) in a story, as well as the story's beginning, middle, and ending.
- 3.3 Identify characters, settings, and important events.

Listening and Speaking

- 1.1 Listen attentively.
- 1.2 Share information and ideas, speaking audibly in complete, coherent sentences.
- 1.4 Stay on the topic when speaking.
- 1.5 Use descriptive words when speaking about people, places, things, and events.

Need Visual and Performing
Arts Standards?

Start here!

V.A.P.A. STANDARDS

1.1 Use the vocabulary of theatre, such as actor, character, cooperation, setting, the five senses, and audience, to describe theatrical experiences.

1.2 Observe and describe the traits of a character.

4.1 Respond appropriately to a theatrical experience as an audience member.

(1st Grade+)

4.1 Describe what was liked about a theatrical work or a story.

4.2 Identify and discuss emotional reactions to a theatrical experience.



How to Be a Good Audience Member


A live performance is a special event! Before attending, *The Great and Glorious Mr. Toad*, you can help your students maximize their understanding and enjoyment of the performance by preparing them to focus on the storyline and to express their enthusiasm in appropriate ways.

Get Ready! The theater is fun!

- Remind students of appropriate audience behavior.
- Arrive on time. Have students use the restroom before the performance.
- Find and settle your students in their viewing space in advance of “curtain time”.
- Most importantly: Share your excitement with the children!

Get Set! The theater is an energetic space!

- When the “house lights” go dark and “stage lights” go on, the students will get excited! It’s okay! We understand, but please prepare them ahead of time for this big lighting change!
- As you know, sound carries in the auditorium. Please try to remind your students and adult helpers to stay quiet during the show because noise is distracting to the audience and performers.
- **Keep your cell phone in your pocket and on silent!** Please set a good example to your fellow teachers and the students.

We  your Applause! Appreciation can be shown in many different ways!

- Applause is the best way for the audience to show their enthusiasm and appreciation for fine acting.
- However, it is important to stop clapping or laughing after a few moments so that action on stage can continue!
- Feel free to clap at the end of a performance and to continue clapping until the curtain comes down or the actors exit the stage or the lights on the stage go dark.

Classroom Tie-Ins

In this section you will find everything from discussion topics to specific worksheets and lesson plan options to help your students get ready and get active with the content from our show!

Pre-Show Discussion or Journal Topics

1. What can you do to be a good friend?
2. Why is it important to have friends?
3. How are you different and similar to your friends?
5. What does it mean to have courage?

Post-Show Discussion or Journal Topics

1. Toad has a lot of hobbies! What type of hobbies do you have?
2. Why did Mole follow along with Toad? Have you ever felt like you had to follow along with others?
3. Why is Toad considered a good character even though he did all of those naughty things?
4. Was Toad a good friend? Why or why not?

Critter Round Up

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw a line from the animal picture to it's name!

A.



MOLE

B.



RAT

C.



BADGER

D.



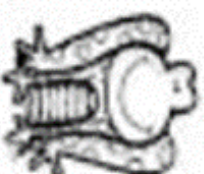
WEASEL

SCIENCE TIME!

INSTRUCTIONS: Using your computer, research the differences between a TOAD and a FROG!

Name _____

Frogs vs. Toads



frogs

toads

Key Vocabulary Words

The Great and Glorious Mr. Toad contains over 90 words worthy of study! Here are just 30 that might be interesting and of use:

Flivver— an old, beat up car

Squall— a big storm

Console— make someone feel better

Amphibians— an animal that lives part of its life in the water (a frog!)

Felon— a bad guys or villains (or even felonious friends)

Balmy-humid or sticky feeling (usually about the weather, or your forehead when you're sick)

Antediluvian-a big word meaning "out of date"

Peculiar— strange or weird

Chum— a friend (also **bloke** or **mates**)

Some words can be used to describe people: **bold, congenial, contemptible, conceited, cunning, grumpy, jolly, incorrigible, obnoxious**

Some words are action words or verbs. People can do these things: **adore, roam, vouch**

Some words might relate to Halloween: **disguise, ghastly**

If you are wearing something special and nice looking, you are **nattily clad**

"The Star Spangled Banner" is our **anthem** in the United States of America

WORD SEARCH

Recommended for 3rd grade and up.

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

AMPHIBIANS
BOLD
GHASTLY
SQUALL
CONCEITED
CONSOLE

JIG
ROAM
CHUM
VOUCH
ERA
CUNNING

TOAD'S ART GALLERY

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw your Favorite part of the play and tell us why!

JOKE CORNER:

Why are toads
always happy?

They eat whatever
BUGS them!

I like this part of the play because _____

Other E.L.A Activities

Drama and Role-Play

1. In groups, have the students **act** out their favorite scenes from the play and present them to the class.
2. Play a **pantomime** game!
Have the students act out their favorite character without using their voices—only using mime!
3. Brainstorm different endings to the play and have your students act them out in class.

Phonics Fun!

1. Make a **list of words** that begin with the letter “T” for Toad.
2. Clap out the number **beats** or **syllables** in some of the words and characters from the play:

Hedgehog	Boat
Badger	Motorcar
Weasel	Friend
Mole	Love
Toad	Policeman

3. Change the beginning letter sound of each of these words and make a new word even a nonsense word.

Example: take ‘t’ from Toad and put an ‘l’ at the beginning (toad-load).

See how many new words you can make from:

Boat	Weasel
Cart	Cat
Mole	River
Beaver	Toad



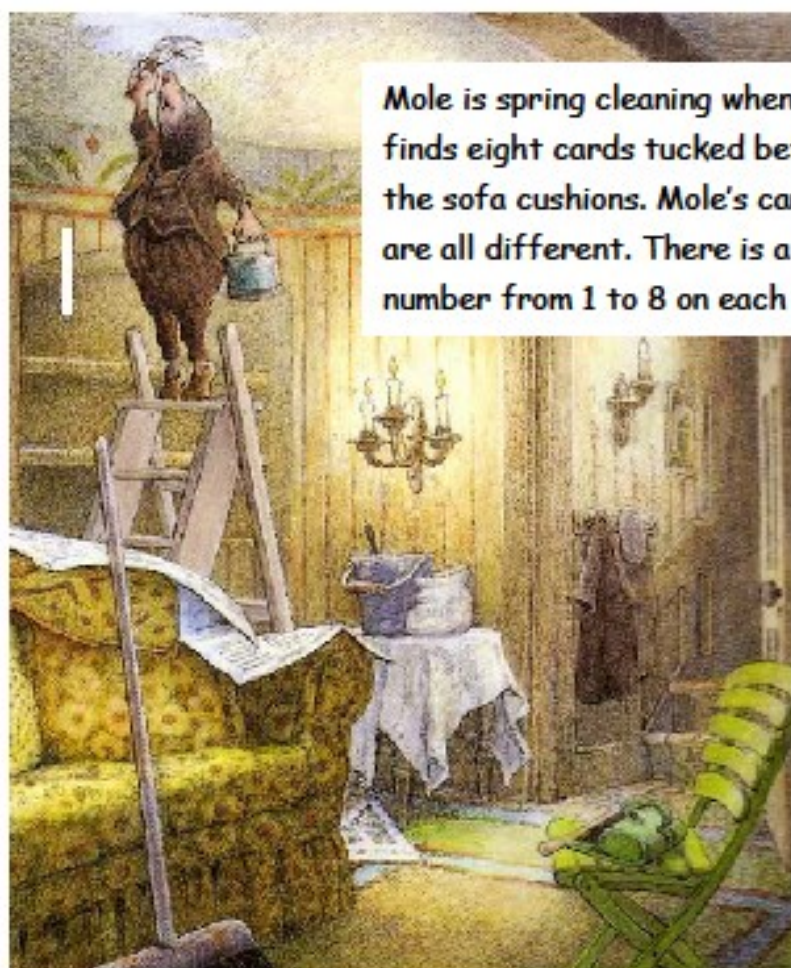
Learning objectives

I can solve mathematical problems or puzzles.

I know addition and subtraction facts up to 20.

I can add three or four small numbers mentally.

Mole spring cleans



Mole is spring cleaning when he finds eight cards tucked between the sofa cushions. Mole's cards are all different. There is a number from 1 to 8 on each card.

Mole has chosen four cards that add up to 20.

What are they?

There are seven different possibilities.

Try to find them all.



Learning objectives

I can solve mathematical problems or puzzles.

I can recognise odd and even numbers.

I can add three or four small numbers mentally.

Toad's banquet



Toad holds a banquet to mark his return to Toad Hall.

Rat, Toad and Mole eat a total of 25 cakes at the banquet.
Each of them eats a different odd number of cakes.

How many cakes did they each eat?

Find as many different ways to do it as you can.

CODEBREAKER

Wind in the Willows

Using the code below, can you work out the hidden words? Work out what the missing number, find the matching letter and write it in to break the code!



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
U	V	W	X	Y	Z				
21	22	23	24	25	26				

Your turn!

$15 - 13 = \square$

$1 \times 1 = \square$

$10 - 6 = \square$

$0 + 7 = \square$

$13 - 8 = \square$

$6 \times 3 = \square$

$9 \times 2 = \square$

$3 \times 3 = \square$

$11 \times 2 = \square$

$11 - 6 = \square$

$15 + 3 = \square$

$1 \times 2 = \square$

$2 - 1 = \square$

$7 \times 2 = \square$

$14 - 3 = \square$

$20 + 3 = \square$

$0 + 5 = \square$

$9 - 8 = \square$

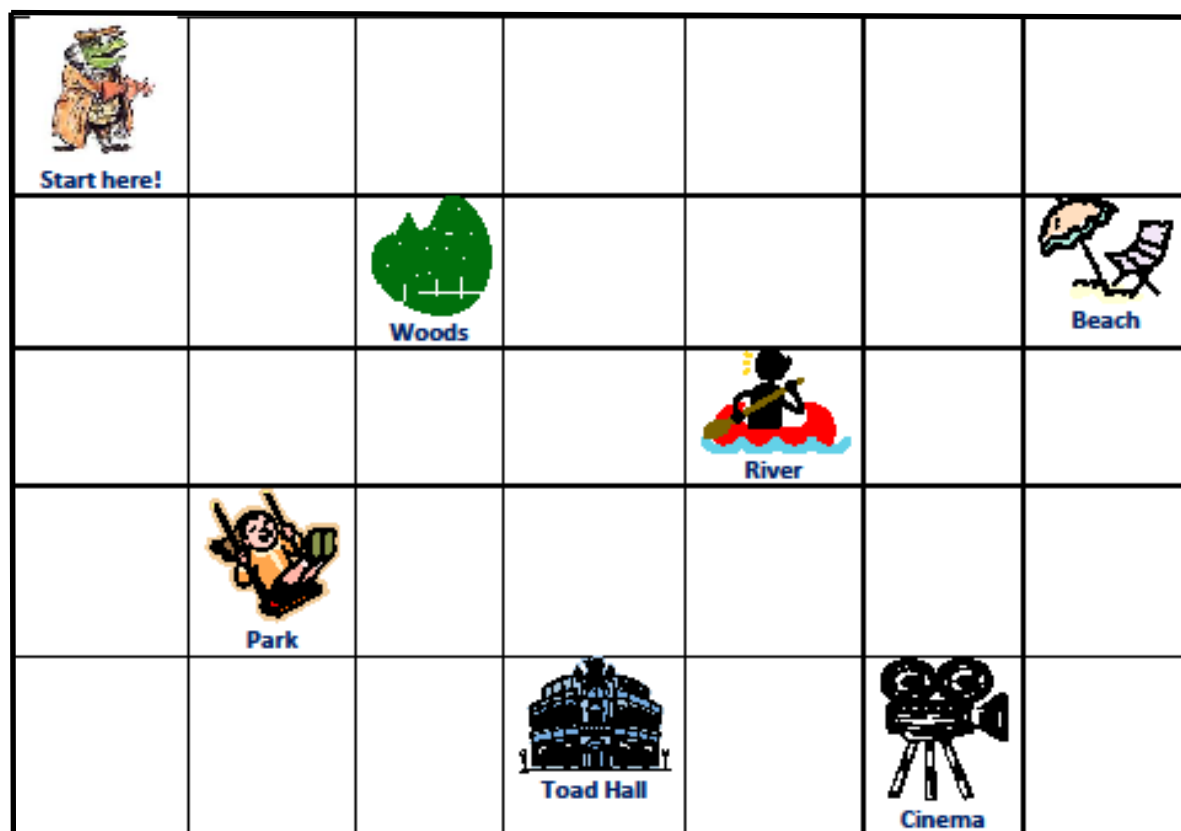
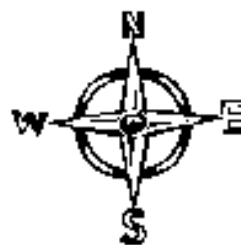
$20 - 1 = \square$

$2 + 3 = \square$

$6 + 6 = \square$

What are the hidden words? Can you write your own code for your friend?

Toad's map



Start in the top left corner. Move **south** two squares. Move **east** three squares. Move **south** two squares. Where do you end up?

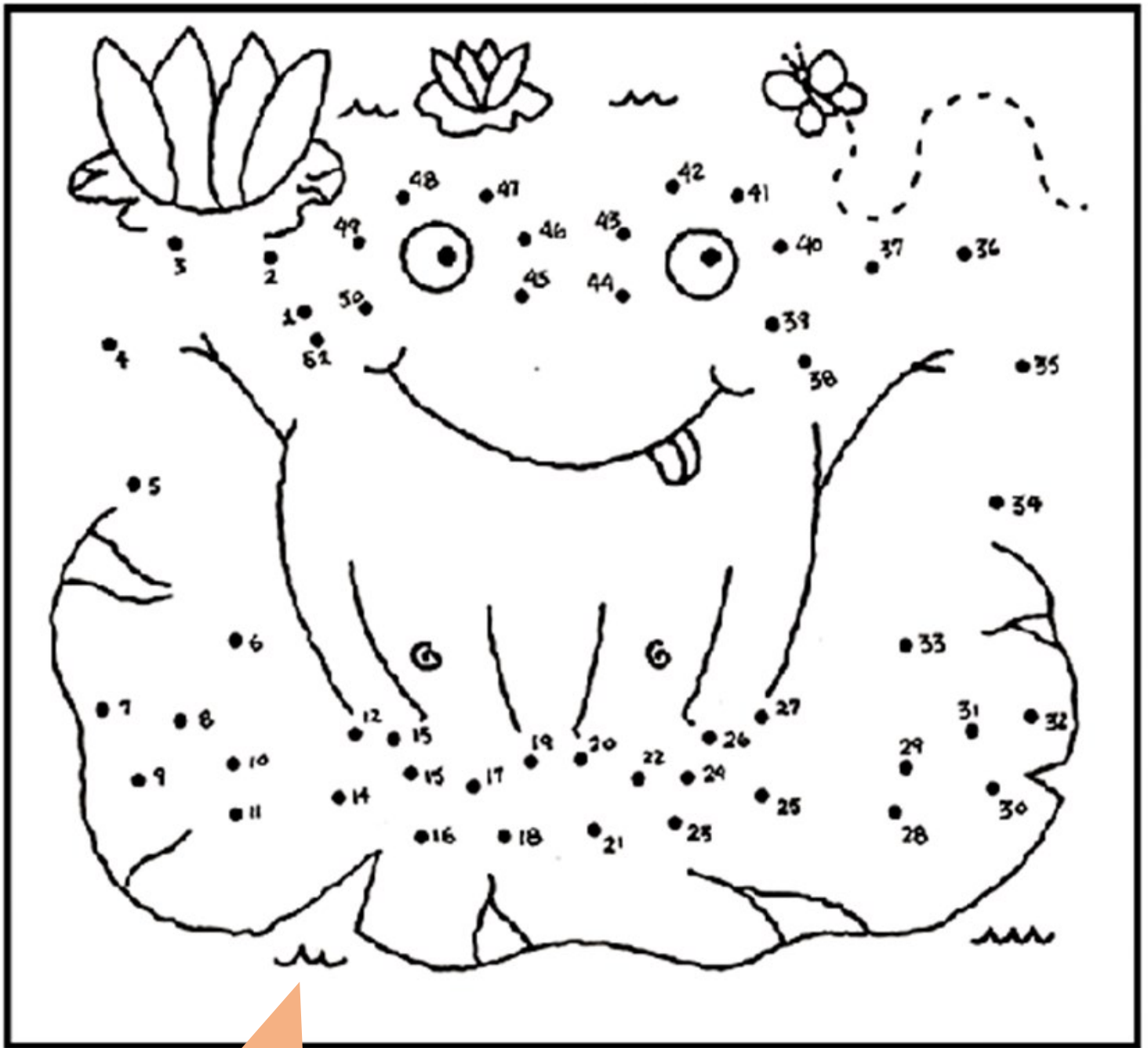
Write instructions to take Toad to the cinema.

Write instructions to take Toad to the beach, then the park, then back to Toad Hall.



Start in the top left corner. Move **east** three squares. Move **south** two squares. Move **west** one square. Draw your own picture in this square.

Connect the Dots



JOKE CORNER:

What happens if a toad parks
in a bus stop?

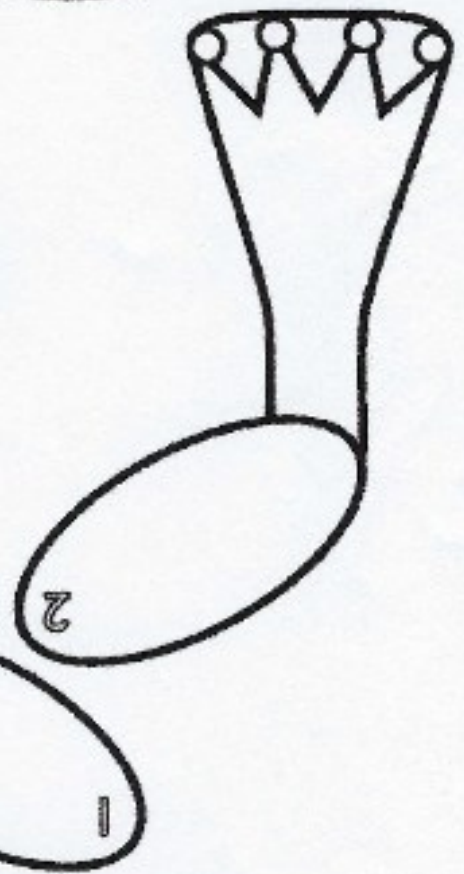
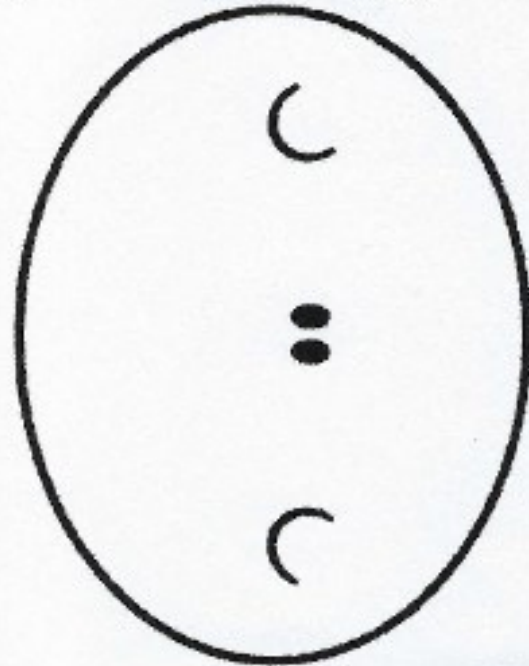
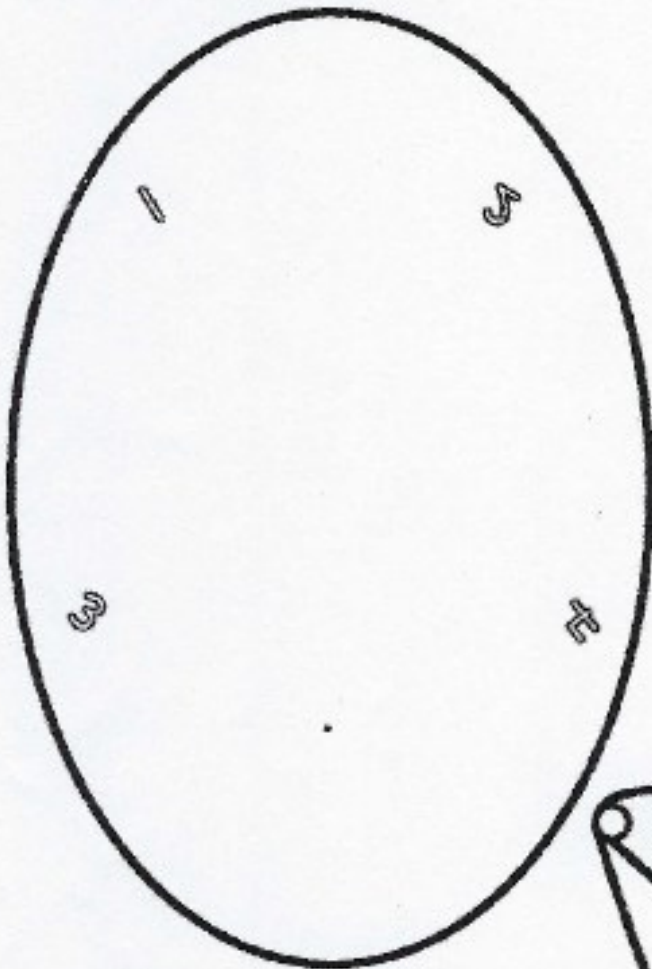
He gets TOAD away!

Did you know that?

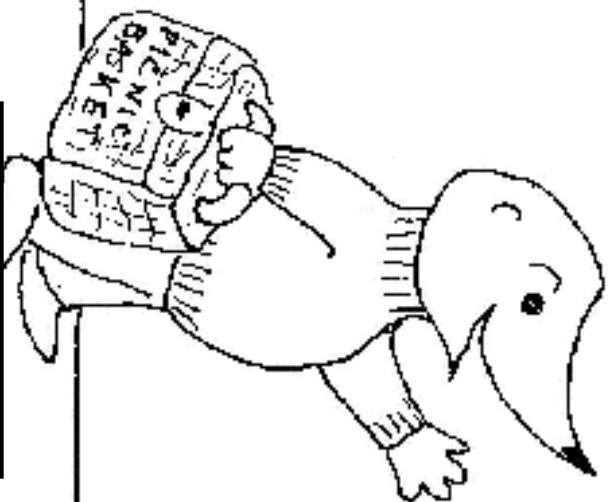
Frogs love to eat **BUGS!** They eat
mosquitos, flies, and moths!



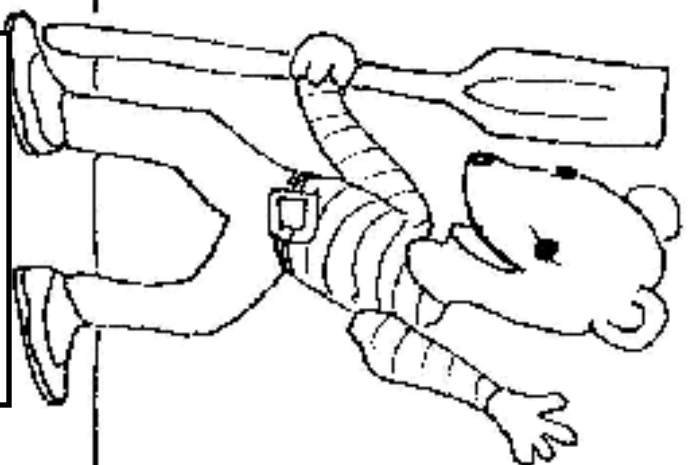
Build a Frog







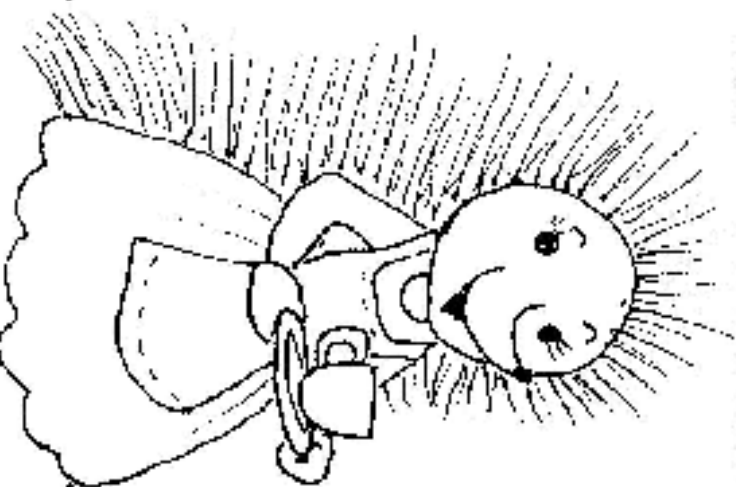
MOLE



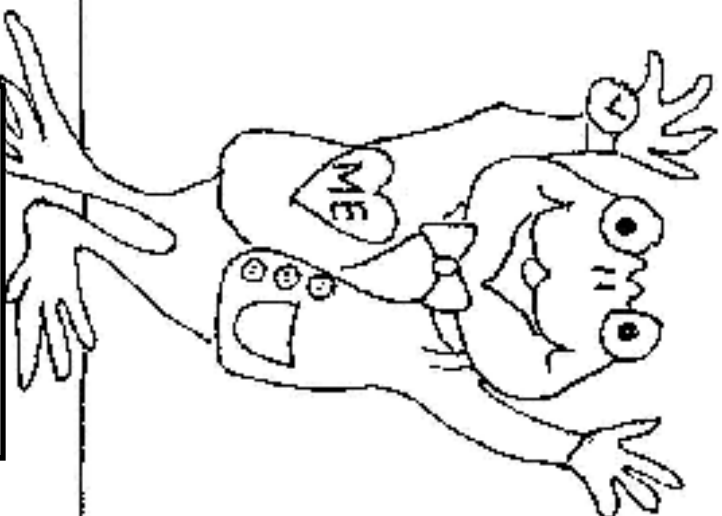
RAT



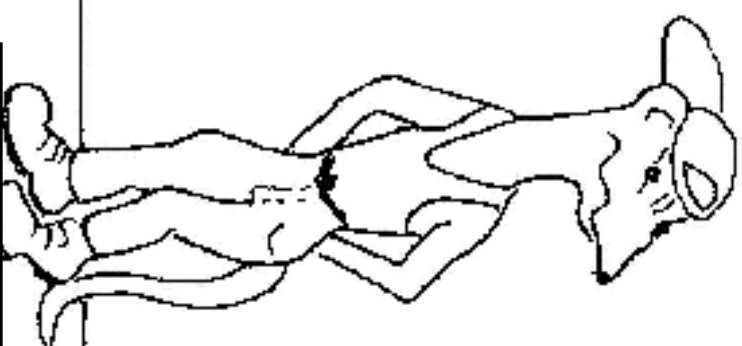
BADGER



MISS HEDGEHOG



TOAD



WEASEL

EAST BAY CHILDREN'S THEATRE, INC.

Evaluation Form

Your opinion matters and truly shapes what we do at EBCT! Your input is also very helpful as we write grants in order to bring more free theatre to the students of the Bay Area. Please let us know how we're doing by circling your response.

School Name: _____ Grades Attended: _____

Date of Performance(s) _____

1 (Highly Disagree) 2 (Disagree) 3 (Neutral) 4 (Agree) 5 (Highly Agree)

1. The quality of the performance (actors, music, dancing, sets and costumes) was good or above average. 1 2 3 4 5

2. My students were engaged and enjoyed the production. 1 2 3 4 5

3. The Teaching Guide was engaging and useful. 1 2 3 4 5
I did not use it.

4. I felt as though the social values in the play were positive and uplifting for my students. 1 2 3 4 5

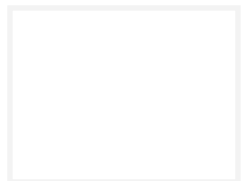
5. I felt as though my students were able to appreciate live musical theater! 1 2 3 4 5

Please send us this form via email at education.ebctheatre@gmail.com or by mail at:

East Bay Children's Theatre

P.O. Box 21502

Oakland, CA 94620-1502



Bibliography for The Wind in the Willows, as background for The Great and Glorious Mr. Toad.

Complete texts:

The Wind in the Willows; Kenneth Grahame; illustrations by Arthur Rackham; afterword by David Stuart Davies, 2017

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame, illustrated by E.H. Shepherd, 1983

Abridged texts:

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame; abridged and illustrated by Inga Moore, 2003.

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame, adapted by Malvina G. Vogel, illustrations by Lorna Tomei, 1994.

The Wind in the Willows, adapted by Michael Plessix as a graphic novel, 2007.

Electronic Resources

The Wind in the Willows ; The Willows in Winter New York : Good Times Home Video, c1999.

Format: DVD/VCD, 145 minutes (Two stories.) Narrated by Vanessa Redgrave. English, Spanish and French language tracks. Close-captioned.

Disney's Animation Collection, DVD, 2009

The wind in the willows [sound recording] / by Kenneth Grahame, Santa Ana, CA : Books on Tape, p2002. Library ed. Read by Jim Weiss.: 6 sound discs, (CDs), unabridged.

Theater in the Classroom Resource:

Toad of Toad Hall, a play based on the book, by A.A. Milne, Scribner, 1929

Online Resources for British Wildlife

<https://www.britishwildlifecentre.org.uk> (Note: "centre" is the correct British spelling.)

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk> (Note: Ratty is a Water Vole.)