SHOWTIMES...
JANUARY 30 – FEBRUARY 14, 2009
SATURDAYS – 1:00 PM & 4:00 PM,
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH – 1:00 PM
SCHOOL PERF: TUES, WED, THURS @ 9:15 AM & 11:15 AM

ABOUT THE BOOK’S AUTHOR...
Arnold Lobel grew up in Schenectady, New York, where he lived with his grandparents. When he graduated from art school, he married Anita Kempler, and they moved to New York. He and his wife had two children, Adam and Adrianne. When he first started drawing pictures for children's books, Arnold Lobel got many of his ideas from the cartoons his children liked to watch. During his distinguished career Arnold Lobel wrote and/or illustrated over 70 books for children. *Frog and Toad are Friends* (1971) is a Caldecott Honor Book; *Frog and Toad Together* (1973) is a Newbery Honor Book. In addition to the *Frog and Toad* books, *Owl at Home, Mouse Tales, The Book of Pigericks,* and many other popular books he created, Mr. Lobel also illustrated other writers' texts. With his wife Anna, a distinguished children's book author and artist in her own right, they collaborated on *How the Rooster Saved the Day,* chosen by School Library Journal as one of the Best Books of the Year, 1977, *A Treeful of Pigs,* a 1979 ALA Notable Book; *On Market Street,* a 1982 Caldecott Honor Book; and *The Rose in My Garden,* a 1984 Boston Globe/Horn Book Honor Book. Arnold Lobel died in 1987.

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS:
Willie Reale (Book and Lyrics) and Robert Reale (Music) are brothers. In addition to *A Year With Frog and Toad,* they have collaborated on a musical called *Once Around The City,* which was produced by New York Stage and Film and at the Second Stage Theatre in New York, and *Quark Victory,* produced by the Williamstown Theatre Festival. *A Year With Frog and Toad* was originally performed at the Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis, the New Victory Theatre and at the Cort Theater on Broadway. Both brothers received Tony nominations for their work on the show.

Willie’s other plays have been produced at the Ensemble Studio Theatre, the Actors Theatre of Louisville and Circle Repertory Company. In 1981, he founded The 52nd Street Project, an organization that brings inner-city children together with professional theater artists to create theater in New York City. He served as the theater’s artistic director for 18 years. The programs of The 52nd Street Project are currently being replicated at 12 sites across the country through a series of publications entitled "The Kid Theater Kit". In June of 1994, he was awarded a MacArthur in recognition of his ingenuity in creating theater and theater education programs for young people.

Robert also writes music for plays, film and television. As composer and record producer he has worked with Julie Andrews, Mel Torme, Sid Caeser and Imogene Coca.
ACT I – INTRODUCING THE PLAY

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.

Vocabulary Words found in the play

Hibernation: to be in a dormant state resembling sleep over the winter while living off reserves of body fat, with a decrease in body temperature and pulse rate and slower metabolism. Animals that hibernate include bears, bats, and many amphibians, including frogs and toads.

Magnanimous: generous and fair

Escargot: French word for snail

Refreshing: Energizing

Rutabaga: a larger rounded yellowish root cooked as a vegetable

Dialogue: can be words spoken by characters in a book or play, but in Frog’s song it means a type of discussion.

THEATRE GOLDEN RULES

Before coming to the Lewis Family Playhouse, you may want to prepare your students for the experience by going over the basic rules of theatre etiquette.

• Please remain quiet (silent) and seated during the performance. Remember, the actors on stage can hear you. Of course, laughter and applause at appropriate times are always greatly appreciated!

• Photography or any type of recording is not allowed inside the theatre at any time. This is not only against our union agreements, but it can be dangerous to the performers.

• Please leave all food, candy and drinks (including water) outside of the theatre. Eating during a performance is very distracting and could be very messy.

• Because the theatre will be dark during the performance, if you need to use the restroom, leave the theatre or come in late, please alert an usher who can help you find your way during a break in the action on stage.

• PLEASE turn off all pagers, cell phones and other electronic devices as they may interfere with theatre equipment and everyone’s enjoyment of the performance.

• After the show, please stay in your seats until an usher guides you out. Your bus may not be in the same place it dropped you off!
ACT II – BRINGING THE PLAY INTO THE CLASSROOM

PREVIEW ACTIVITIES

- Read some of the books and become familiar with the characters.
- A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD is a musical, which takes many of the stories in the books and makes its own story. Talk to the students about how a musical is different from a play, and what they might expect to see on the stage.
- Have students draw pictures or make up songs using their favorite FROG AND TOAD story as inspiration.

AFTER THE SHOW ACTIVITIES

- In the play, FROG writes TOAD a letter telling him how happy he is to have him as a friend. Have the students write a letter to a friend. Writing Standard 2.2 (Write a friendly letter complete with date, salutation, body, closing and signature)
- In nature, Frogs and Toads are very different creatures. Research the difference and make a chart comparing the two. What do they eat? How big are they? What are some common characteristics of the two animals? (Life Sciences)
- FROG and TOAD spend an afternoon making cookies. Make a batch of cookies with your students. (See an easy recipe on p.5) Make sure to let them measure the ingredients and time how long they bake in the oven! (Mathematics: Measurement and Geometry 1.2, Number sense 4.0)
- The play takes FROG, TOAD and the other animals through the four seasons. Make a collage depicting the different seasons, or pick a favorite season. (Visual Arts: Creative Expression)
- Early in the play, TOAD’s clock gets broken, but he gets a new one from FROG for Christmas. Have the students make their own clock, using paper plates, paper fasteners, and arrows made out of poster board or construction paper. (see easy instructions on p. 5.) (Mathematics: Measurement and Geometry)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. FROG and TOAD are friends, and like to do many things together, like raking leaves, making cookies and going sledding. Have the students talk about what they like to do with their best friends.

2. The play takes FROG and TOAD through the four seasons. What are some characteristics of each season that makes them different from each other? Have the students talk about their favorite season and the types of activities they enjoy.

3. 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 your students have felt embarrassed or shy because of how they might look to others? Have they ever been teased (or teased others) because of something they wore to school?
**ACT III – EXTENDING THE LEARNING**

**Reaching Out – Frog and Toad Style!**

One of the most important aspects of school is socialization. Through living, learning and working in a classroom, children from diverse backgrounds learn how to relate to one another and create successful partnerships. But what about the world beyond the classroom? Wouldn’t it be great if your students could develop friendships with children from across the country or maybe even around the world?

While pen pals are not a new concept, the advent of instant messaging, email and other forms of electronic communication have made this exercise a fun and easy way to teach multiple standards based lessons. The best part is your students will not only enjoy the activity but will be learning those invaluable life skills not listed on the standards matrix!

Below are some good online resources for pen pal lesson planning. You may also consider having your students pair up with students in another classroom on campus. The immediacy of the activity might make for even more fun.

**Pen Pal Resources**

- **The Teacher’s Corner**
  This site offers an interactive map where teachers can pick international pen pals at every grade level.

- **K Grams**
  Currently offered only in the Midwest, this program pairs college students with kindergartners to develop writing skills. The site has great resources and ideas for extending the learning through “experiences beyond the classroom”.

- **EPals**
  Offering to match children globally, this site also hosts a wealth of literacy skill builders, hints and tips for teachers.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The [Paul A. Biane Library at Victoria Gardens](http://www.vgulturalcenter.com) has over 1000 books and media in the Performing Arts collections for Adults and Children.

- The Library also offers extensive [online resources](http://www.vgiculturalcenter.com) and tools you can use to bring technology and arts into the classroom.

- [The Library and Playhouse](http://www.vgiculturalcenter.com) present joint performing arts programming that supports state curriculum standards.
**BEHIND THE SCENES -- A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD**

**Easy Oatmeal Raisin cookie recipe!**

3 eggs, beaten  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup butter  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup sugar  
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
2 cups rolled oats  
1 cup raisins

Combine eggs, vanilla and raisins. Cover and let stand for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 350*. Cream the butter and sugars. Sift the flour and baking soda and add to creamed mixture. Stir in the raisin mixture and oats. Drop by spoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 10 minutes or until lightly golden brown. Cool.

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**Make a Clock!**

**Materials:**  
- Paper Plate  
- Markers  
- Poster Board or Construction Paper  
- Paper fasteners  
- Circle shaped stickers

1. Make a hole in center of plate. Use stickers to mark where “12”, “6”, “3” & “9” go, using a real clock as a model if needed. Write the numbers on the stickers. Fill in the additional numbers.
2. Using poster board, cut 2 arrows – a longer one for the minute hand, and a shorter one for the hour. Attach arrows with fastener through the hole and secure at back.
3. Practice telling time by placing the hands in different locations on the clock!

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**THEATRE RELATED ACTIVITIES:**

**Improvisation: Seasons and Weather**

1. Ask students to think about the four seasons, and what type of activities they might do in each season (going to school, playing football, raking leaves, etc. in the Fall; swimming, going to camp, watching television, etc., in Summer; playing Little League, planting a garden, etc., in Spring.) Think about what type of weather we might have in each season (rain, sunshine, snow, etc)
2. Ask the students to imagine it is a particular season (Fall, for instance). They should then start to act out a Fall activity. Once this is established, call out a different season, or type of weather, and the students must react appropriately.

This is a great improvisational game for older students, and a fun way to learn about the seasons and different weather for younger students. (Creative Expression)

**Write a review** of the play, describing the set, costumes, lighting or acting in the play. Younger children can draw pictures of their favorite scenes or characters. (Aesthetic valuing)

**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.
2. Study pictures of animals and how they move and live.
3. Can other students guess which animal is being acted out?
4. Don’t forget animal sounds!

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**Some 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, and so forth.
BEHIND THE SCENES --
A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD

HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE LIBRARY!

Making the Classroom Come Alive!

Performing Arts are important in every child’s life. Researchers say that using art in the classroom has a positive impact on a child’s cognitive, social, and emotional development.

Teachers are working hard on ways to incorporate arts in the classroom. Kathy Schrock’s Guide for Educators is a categorized list of sites useful for enhancing curriculum and professional growth. It is updated often to include the best sites for teaching and learning.

With the California Standards at the forefront of teaching, many educators may find it difficult to integrate performing arts into their classroom. PBS has a standards based resource list that makes integrating the arts in the classroom easy!

Incorporating Performing Arts in the classroom inspires new ways of teaching and learning. Differentiating the learning environment enhances the learners’ experience while tapping into their individual talents.

BOOKS @ THE LIBRARY

If you have any questions about any library resources, call the reference desk at 909.477.2720.

EASY LOBEL
(shelved with Beginning Readers)
Frog and Toad All Year
Frog and Toad
Frog and Toad Together
Days with Frog and Toad
Mouse Soup
Mouse Tales
Grasshopper on the Road

Related Reading

EASY PILKEY
(shelved with Beginning Readers)
Friend for Dragon

EASY LABATT
(shelved with Beginning Readers)
Friend for Sam

EASY STOEKE
Friend for Minerva Louise

J 177 KLI
Friendship

J 790 MEI
Join in and Play

J 158 LEE
How Humans Make Friends

LIBRARY TOUR INFORMATION

As part of your class visit to the Lewis Family Playhouse, why not take a tour of the Victoria Gardens Cultural Center Library? The second of two physical branches of the library (RCPL also offers an extensive virtual library), the facility has over 100,000 volumes housed in a beautiful, 23,000 square foot facility. Among the facility’s unique features are its 20 seat technology center, teen study area and a special performing arts collection.

Pre- and post- show tours last approximately 15 minutes and are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. To arrange a tour, call Lorena Espinoza, Library Assistant at (909)477-2720 ext. 5059.

This Curriculum guide was prepared by the staff of the Lewis Family Playhouse. Library information compiled by Library staff. For questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Mireya “Murry” Hepner at (909) 477-2775 ext. 3734.