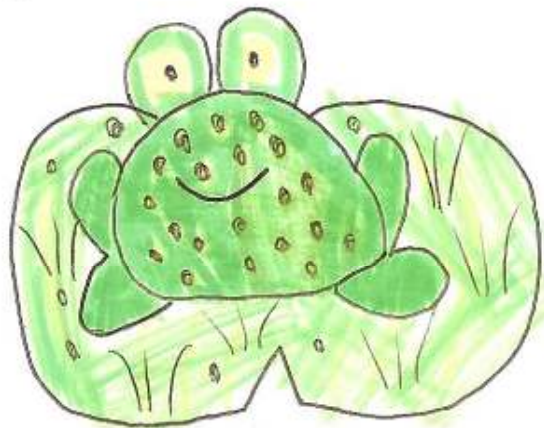


Louis the Frog - A Mystery Story
By Ethan Monaghan

Once upon a time there was a frog called Louis. Louis lived on a big, fat, green lily pad in an enchanted forest. Louis was a very smart frog but always managed to get himself into trouble. One bright day Louis decided to go for a walk. Suddenly he tripped over something that was hidden in the leaves. Louis jumped up and scraped the leaves away from where he tripped and found a mysterious key. At the end of it was a dazzling coin.



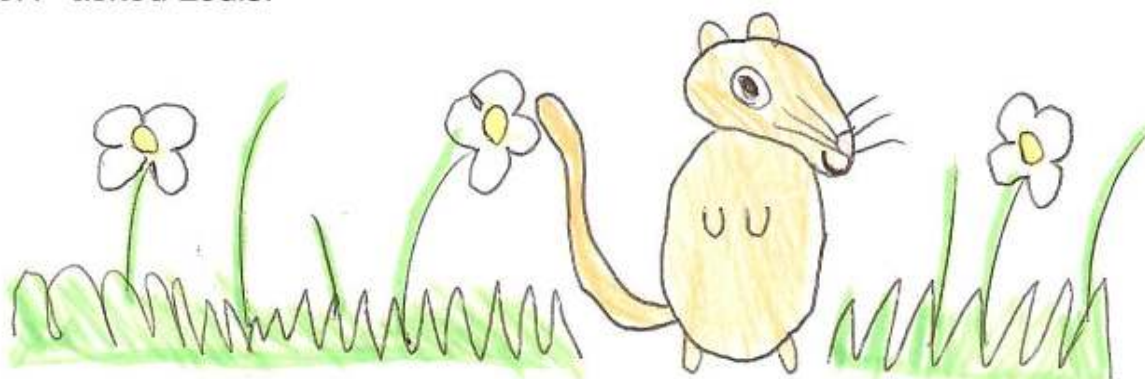
Louis didn't know what the key was for. "Hmm, I wonder what this weird key could be for? I think I'll ask my friend Bert the Toad - he might know something about the key".

Bert the Toad lives in a swamp, in the dark half of the enchanted forest. The swamp is dirty and very smelly. Most people are too scared to visit the swamp because they think it's haunted. Bert on the other hand likes the swamp very much because there are lots of flies and pond skaters there and this is Bert's favourite food.

Louis leapt his way to the swamp and when he got there he heard Bert croaking loudly, "CRRRROOOOOAAAANKK!!!" "What's up Bert?" said Louis. "Just yawning, what do you want?" said Bert tiredly. "I was wondering if you know anything about this key or what it's for" said Louis. "I don't know, but Morris the field mouse does" said Bert sternly.

Louis went to the fields and that was when he met Morris. Morris was

a field mouse. He lived in a hole in the middle of a patch of daisies. Morris was vanilla coloured, he had short hair and was about 5 centimetres high. "Excuse me, are you Morris" asked Louis. "Why yes I'm Morris, it's very nice to meet you. What would you like?" said Morris kindly. "I would like to know about this key, do you know what it's for?" asked Louis.



Morris changed his temper. "I will only tell you if you can get back a diamond that Fredrick the mole stole from me a long time ago" said Morris. "Why do you want me to get it back, can't you get it yourself?" said Louis. "Look, do you want to know what the key is for, or not?!" shouted Morris aggressively.

Before Louis left he asked Morris how to get it back. "What ever you do don't act suspicious, if Fredrick finds out you're trying to get back the diamond..." said Morris. "Got it!" said Louis.

Fredrick was a mole. He lived in a massive burrow deep in the ground. He was black, had orange eyes and was about 16 centimetres long and sometimes really stupid! His favourite food was worms and nearly any type of insect. Not only was he dumb but he also was very aggressive.

When Louis got to the burrow he met Fredrick. "What do you want?" said Fredrick. "I'm...a house inspector" said Louis. "UMMMM, okaaaay you can come in" murmured Fredrick. When Louis went in he saw the most beautiful, dazzling diamond on the table. Louis pretended to inspect the house. Once he had inspected the whole house he went over to the table and when Fredrick wasn't looking, Louis grabbed the diamond and leapt out of the house as quickly as he could. When Fredrick noticed his diamond was missing, he went after Louis in an angry rage. Fortunately for Louis, the sun blinded

Fredrick as we all know moles only come out at night.

Louis then went back to the field where Morris was waiting for him to return. "Got the diamond!" said Louis. Morris was so pleased that Louis had got the diamond back that he told Louis straight away, what the key was for. "The key is to a door on the other side of the **forbidden lake**. Legend has it that behind the door is riches beyond compare and only the person who has this magic key can unlock the door" shouted Morris. They were both very excited.

When Louis got to the lake he noticed the lake was full of crocodiles. "Oh, no, how will I get past these crocs? Hey I know, I'll use their heads as stepping stones" said Louis, leaping across the lake. Once he got to the other side of the lake, he met a fox who wanted to eat him. So Louis got a chunky twig and threw it right into the fox's mouth which jammed it open.



Louis ran to the door and turned the key in the lock. Then a glistening light came out - this was the gold shining out across the lake. It was a lovely sight seeing all the gold shining in front of him. Louis was amazed at how much gold there was - and he remembered all his friends who helped him discover what the key was for. Louis wanted to give his friends, Bert and Morris a special gift of £9,000,000 each.

Then Louis went back to his lily pad and threw a huge party and they all lived happily ever after. Except for Fredrick!

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