

# Louis the frog

There once was a talented frog called Louis, who grew up on a riverbank. He was about the size of a small stone. The riverbank he lived on was tiny, mossy and wet. He was an orphaned frog but small, clever and quick, he was also very creative.

One fine day he left his part of the river in search of food. After a while he came to a lake. In the middle of the lake was something he could not make out!

When he got close he realized how big the lake was, it was the size of a huge merry go round. In the middle of the lake there was a dark, dirty and dank rock. It was treeless except for one big brown bush with berries on. It was dying.

On the rock there were things that looked like frogs but they were bigger and had speckles on them. Toads! They were armed with twigs and sharp leaves. They seemed to be having a meeting. "What are they doing?" Louis said to himself.

Louis heard a bit of what they were saying:

"I say we attack now," said one.

“I say we drain the river first, who’s with me?” said another.

A few toads put their hands up for the second speaker but more toads put their hands up for the first speaker. Then one by one they jumped into the water still armed with their leaves and sticks.

Louis hopped away until he got to Joe the rabbit’s house. Joe was his friend so he told Joe everything about the toads and what they were doing. Joe said to go to the owls’ meeting that was held every week. Joe went with Louis to the gathering. After much discussion the biggest owl said: “we must ready ourselves for war.”

All the animals prepared for the battle ahead. Mice armed with twigs. Badgers armed with big sticks. Birds armed with stones and rocks. Squirrels armed with nuts. Rabbits armed with small sticks. Owls armed with small boulders. Louis had no weapon but he was an important lookout for the animals.

A few days later the animals of the forest gathered on one side of the river to fight. When the toads finally arrived they attacked the animals straight away! The animals fought well but they were slowly beaten back. Louis, Joe and Andrew (the badger) crept round the back of the toad’s army. As they got near the back they spotted about ten of the toads. Suddenly one of them looked around and saw them...

They charged at them and they had to fight, so Andrew took on five, Joe took on two and Louis took on one. The other two toads ran to get help but a dark figure picked one up and dropped it on the other one.

In the end the toads were forced to go and find another home. The mice went to live in the berry bush on the rock which soon became a small island, and Louis went back to his riverbank with some fresh food.

As he turned into his familiar home he heard a loud cheer "Hooray for Louis". All the animals of the forest had gathered to thank Louis for helping them win the battle. Louis felt honoured for what his friends had done and performed a celebratory splash into the cool, blue ripples of the river.

