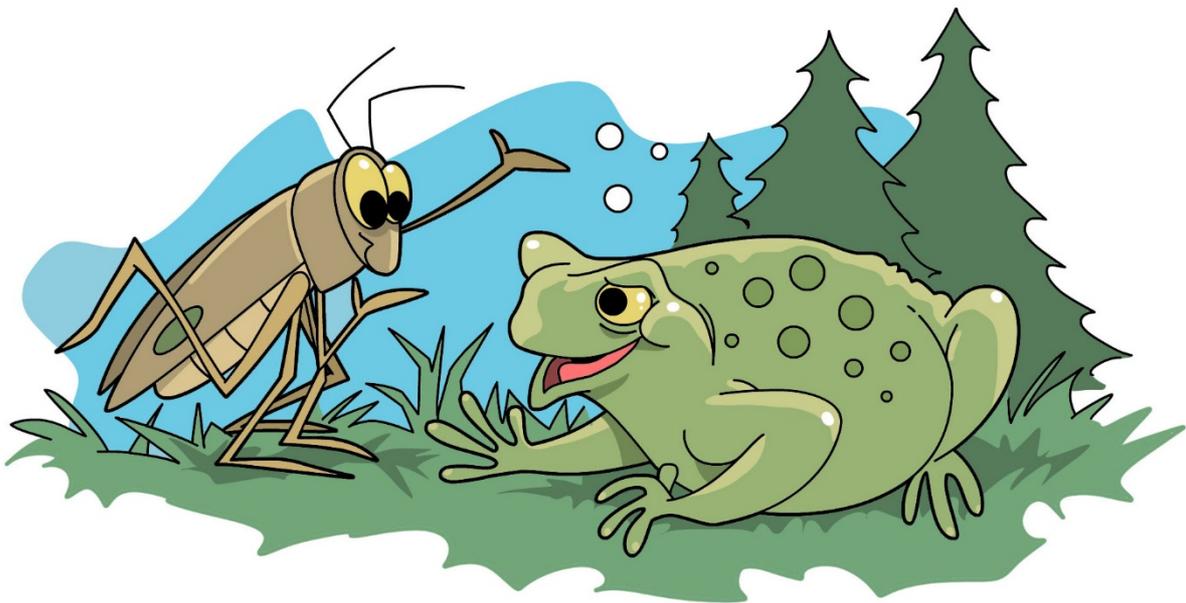


## Learning through Stories

A special part of any culture that we live in is the passing down of stories. Stories can be very powerful. They can show us new ways of seeing things that help us when we are facing our own difficulties. They can help us feel closer to other people in our culture and to follow the ways of our culture that have existed for a very long time. When a story teaches us something, we say that it has a moral.

Here is a story from the South African culture. After you read this, there will be some questions for you to answer that help you think about the moral or message of the story.



*Once upon a time, long ago, all the animals of the forest were friends. The elegant grasshopper and handsome green toad were especially fond of each other. Toad loved Grasshopper's beautiful colours and his stripes and swirls. Grasshopper was very impressed by Toad's flat body and the way he could spend most of his time in the water, with only his eyes and nose sticking out. They were both fun-loving and energetic, and sometimes when Toad called out to his friends, he sounded almost exactly like cricket sounded when he rubbed his legs together.*

*One day Toad called to his wife. "Let us invite Grasshopper and his wife to supper tonight. We'll have a feast! What do you say?"*

*"If you like," said Toad's wife warily. "We don't know them well, of course, but if you like Toad so much then I'm sure we'll enjoy their company."*

*Toad was overjoyed and rushed off to invite Grasshopper and his wife to supper. That evening Grasshopper and his wife travelled to the pond to meet up with Toad and his wife.*

*Before they sat down to eat, Toad announced, "First we shall wash our feet, of course," and he washed his forelegs.*

*"Of course," Grasshopper said, and he too rubbed his forelegs together, and so did his wife. As they did, the silent pond was suddenly full of the sound of grasshoppers' chirping.*

*"Oh!" squeaked Toad's wife, startled by the sound. "What a terrible sound! Please don't do that again!"*

*"Yes," Toad agreed, "making such loud noises before supper is considered rude. Now, let us eat!" He reached for the soufflé of spider.*

*Grasshopper reached too, but soon he discovered that he could not eat without chirping, for to grasp the food, he had to rub his legs together.*

*"Quiet!" Toad cried. "I told you, this is no time for making such a loud noise! I can't eat!"*

*Grasshopper and his wife stopped eating, and the air around them grew quiet. When Toad and his wife had finished eating, Grasshopper said uneasily, "Tomorrow I think you shall have to come to our house to share our supper."*

*"That sounds wonderful," Toad said.*

*The next evening Toad and his wife, wearing her favourite necklace, arrived at Grasshopper's hut. Once inside they saw a steaming pot of insect stew, and Toad's stomach rumbled with pleasure.*

*"Before we eat," Grasshopper said, "please wash your feet." He pointed out a water jar that sat outside.*

*"Of course," Toad said, and he hopped outside and washed his feet. Then he hopped back inside to join the feast. He was just about to reach for the platters when Grasshopper cried,*

*"Toad, please! Don't put your dirty feet into the food. Look at the mud! Please, go and wash them."*

*Toad quickly hopped back to the water jar, washed again, and returned to the food. Now Toad was hungry, and he reached to take a ladle full of food, but once again Grasshopper cried, "Look at your feet!"*



*Sure enough, Toad's feet were dirty from hopping back across the ground.*

*"Now look here," said Toad, "this is ridiculous. You're trying to embarrass me. You know very well that I must use my feet to hop about, and if they get dirty between the water jar and the food, there's nothing that I can do to fix that!"*

*Grasshopper frowned. "Yes, and you embarrassed me and my wife last night," he said. "You know very well that I cannot eat without rubbing my legs together, and when I rub my legs together, I cannot help but make the chirping sound."*

*"Very well, then! Let us agree never to share a meal again!" Toad said and hopped away with his wife. From that day onwards Toad and Grasshopper stopped being friends.*

***Moral: If you wish to have true friendship with someone, learn to accept each other's faults, as well as each other's good qualities.***

Story adapted from "The Grasshopper and the Toad: A Fable from Southern Africa" told by Amy Friedman & Meredith Johnson

<https://www.uexpress.com/tell-me-a-story/2010/9/12/the-grasshopper-and-the-toad-a>

Questions:

1. What are **two** things that Toad admired about Grasshopper?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

2. What are **two** things that Grasshopper admired about Toad?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

3. How do you know that Toad and Grasshopper enjoyed each other's company?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

4. Why did Toad and his wife think that Grasshopper and his wife were being rude?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

5. Were Grasshopper and his wife trying to be rude and why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

6. How did Grasshopper decide to teach Toad a lesson?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

7. How could have the friendship between Toad and Grasshopper been saved?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

8. What has this story taught you?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

Total marks \_\_\_\_ / 18