



Name: _____

The Frog Who Wanted to Fly

Once, in a pond shaded by ancient weeping willows, lived a frog named Froggie. Froggie was a magnificent jumper, but he was never satisfied. While the other frogs were happy catching flies, Froggie spent his days staring at the dragonflies zipping through the air.

"Why should they have all the fun?" Froggie grumbled. "I have strong legs. If I just jump high enough, surely I can stay up there."

One morning, Froggie climbed to the very top of a mossy stone. He took a deep breath, coiled his powerful back legs, and launched himself toward the clouds. For a split second, he felt the wind under his belly. He felt like a king! But then, gravity took hold.

Splash! Froggie landed right on his head in the murky water.

"Maybe I just need more surface area," Froggie thought, rubbing his bruised nose. He found two large, flat maple leaves and tucked them under his front legs. "These will be my wings!"

He climbed an even higher stump. A wise old toad named Thistle watched from below. "Froggie," Thistle croaked, "a frog is built for the water and the grass. Your strength is in your leap, not in the breeze."

"You're just old-fashioned, Thistle!" Froggie cried. He leaped again, flapping his leafy wings wildly. For a moment, a gust of wind caught the leaves and lifted him higher than before. But the wind was fickle. It twisted the leaves, sending Froggie into a dizzying spin.

He crashed into a patch of bulrushes, tangled and soggy. As he struggled to free himself, a large shadow passed over him. A hungry heron was circling the pond, its sharp eyes scanning for movement.

Because Froggie was tangled in the leaves and out of the water, he was a sitting duck. He couldn't use his powerful legs to dive. Just as the heron began its descent, Froggie gave one desperate, massive kick. He tore through the leaves and rocketed deep into the safety of the mud at the bottom of the pond.

He stayed there until the shadow disappeared. When he finally surfaced, he didn't look at the dragonflies. He looked at the water, which kept him hidden, and his legs, which had just saved his life.





Name: _____

1. Which sentence would you include in a summary of the fable?

- A) Herons are the most dangerous predators in the wetlands.
- B) Maple leaves make excellent wings for amphibians.
- C) Froggie learns to value his natural abilities after a dangerous experience.
- D) Dragonflies are the fastest insects in the pond.

2. Why did the "wings" Froggie made actually make him less safe?

- A) The leaves were too heavy for him to carry up the stump.
- B) Being tangled in the leaves prevented him from diving away from danger.
- C) The leaves made him taste bitter to the heron.
- D) The bright colors of the leaves attracted the heron.

3. What was the purpose of the character Thistle the Toad?

- A) To show that toads are better at flying than frogs.
- B) To help Froggie tie the leaves to his legs.
- C) To provide a warning that foreshadowed the moral of the story.
- D) To race Froggie to the top of the mossy stone.

4. How did Froggie's "magnificent leap" serve him differently at the end of the story compared to the beginning?

- A) At the beginning, it was for pride; at the end, it was for survival.
- B) He lost his ability to leap because he stayed in the mud too long.
- C) At the end, he used it to catch a dragonfly instead of trying to be one.
- D) It didn't change; he still used it to try and reach the clouds.