

Clever brown mouse

(Story shortened)



One day a mouse finds a heap of seeds. He eats two or three seeds. "These seeds are good! Wait I must put the other seeds away, then I can keep them for another day," he thinks.

But when he comes back a few days later, the seeds are missing. "What happened? Where are my seeds?" he asks.

"Your wheat has grown well," says Granny Mouse.

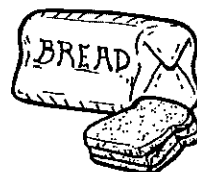
"Wheat? Is that wheat?" asks mouse.

"Now you can bake bread", says Granny mouse.



He bakes white bread and brown bread. Then he gathers the hay and makes a bed.

Clever brown mouse can sleep and rest now. He has food for the long, cold winter.



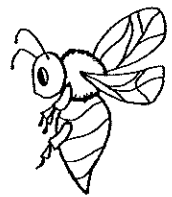
Grizzly Bear was in the park looking for honey,  
when a bumble-bee stung him on his paw.



Grizzly Bear ran out of the park shouting, “Help! Help!  
I’ve been stung by a grumble-bee!”

“You mean a bumble-bee,” said the park keeper.

“That’s right, a mumble-bee,” said Grizzly, who was  
not good at names.



Home he went to Old Mother Grizzly.

“Help! Help! I’ve been stung by a grumble-mumble.

Look at my paw!”

“What you need is something cool,” said Old Mother  
Grizzly.

“Here, put your paw in this pack of ice-cream.”



Grizzly Bear soon felt better and forgot about the bumble  
bee that stung him. “Ice-cream does make everything  
better” said Old Mother Grizzly.

## Grade 4 - Prepared Reading

### **Gangsta Granny**

Night was falling and it was getting cold and dark. Ben was shivering in the bushes as he watched his granny. "Where can she be going?" he thought. "She hardly ever goes out."

He saw a shadow in her bungalow, then her face appeared at the window. Ben quickly hid. The front door opened slowly and a figure dressed all in black stepped out. A black balaclava covered the face, but Ben knew it was Granny. She climbed onto her mobility scooter and started the engine. Why was she dressed like a ninja?

Ben got on his bike and followed her quietly. Granny moved close to the walls and kept out of the street lights. Suddenly she looked back and Ben hid behind a tree. After a moment, he continued following her into the quiet town.

Soon they reached the high street. The shops were closed and it was almost empty. Granny swerved into doorways as she got closer to her destination. Ben gasped when he saw where she stopped — the jeweller's shop.

Through the window, necklaces, rings, and watches sparkled. Ben watched in shock as Granny took out a tin of cabbage soup. She looked around, then raised her arm to smash it through the window.

"Nooo!" Ben shouted.

Granny dropped the tin. It hit the ground and cabbage soup spilled everywhere. She turned around.

"Ben?" she hissed. "What are you doing here?"

## Grade 5 - Prepared Reading

### **Technology is hard for Frog and Toad: Work from Home**

Toad woke up. In his bed were last night's dishes, a water glass, and a pile of laundry. "Drat!" he said. "This room is a mess."

Frog opened the door. "Oh, so this is where all the dishes are."

"I will clean later," said Toad. "It is time for work." He put on his work pajamas, opened his laptop, and checked his email. "I have so much work to do," he sighed. He even set his Zoom background to a picture of a tidy room.

Suddenly, the Wi-Fi stopped working.

Toad restarted his computer, but it still did not work. He called Frog. "The Wi-Fi is not working!"

"That is strange," said Frog. "It works for me." Toad checked the router. He unplugged it and plugged it back in. The lights blinked, but the Wi-Fi still did not work. He tried again. Still nothing.

"Toad started getting angry. "NOW, ROUTER! WORK!" he shouted.

Frog came back. "Why are you shouting?"

"This router is broken!" said Toad.

"Maybe move closer to it," said Frog. "And please stop shouting."

Frog left. Toad moved his computer closer to the router and tried again. He stared at it and sighed.

"You are my nemesis," said Toad. "What was that?" called Frog.

"Nothing," said Toad.

**Grade 6 - English Prepared Reading**  
**Frog and Toad Practice Self-Care**

By 9:30 on Saturday morning, Frog had already finished his workout, read the newspaper, and made a to-do list. "Toad! It is time to start the day!" he called.

From the living room came a voice: "No one here but us blankets." Frog pulled the blankets aside and found Toad lying on the couch, staring at his tablet. "Argh! It is too bright!" said Toad.

"I have planned our day," said Frog. "We will walk in the meadow, cook something new, and organise the garage." "Toad is not here," mumbled Toad, pulling the blanket over his head. Frog continued, "Then from two to four we will do a puzzle and clean—"

"All in one day?" groaned Toad.

Frog sighed and went to the kitchen. He made a cup of coffee and placed it in front of Toad. Toad peeked out. "Is this for me?" he asked.

"Yes," said Frog. "Can we start over?"

Toad sat up and took a sip. "I was up late watching a show," he admitted. "I'm a bit grumpy." Frog asked, "What show?"

"It's a sitcom about pond designers," said Toad. "The boss is amazing." Frog smiled. "Want me to watch with you?" Toad thought for a moment. "How about we watch one episode, then do one thing from your list?"

"That," said Frog, "is a great plan."

They sat together, watched the show, and then went outside to enjoy the day.

## Grade 7 - English Prepared Reading

**Posted - John David Anderson**

Sometimes, things stick. Like chewed-up pecan rolls to the roof of your mouth. It's annoying. Especially when you can't get rid of them. Other times, though, they catch fire. And then they explode. It happens all the time. Stupid dances. Catchy pop songs. Things you wouldn't expect. The right person finds it, likes it, favourites it, tweets it, and then it just spreads. Like an avalanche.

That's what happened with the sticky notes.

In just a few days, what started with a few notes became something everyone was doing. Preps and nerds, goths and floaters, popular, not so popular, rich kids, poor kids, all the in-between kids, everyone was writing them. Literally overnight, they were everywhere!

The biggest clue came on Friday in Mr. Sword's class. Blank yellow Post-it notes were on our desks. On the board was a quote from Albert Einstein: "Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity."

Mr. Sword asked, "Who can tell me what an aphorism is?" once we'd all settled down. "It's when your brain explodes?" Samantha guessed. "That's an aneurysm," he said. "An aphorism is a short, clever saying that shares a truth about life."

"Like memes?" someone asked. "Kind of," said Mr. Sword, "Though most of what you'll find on the internet is obnoxious or downright cruel. They can be funny, but they speak to something universal about the human condition."

Wolf sat quietly, peeling his sticky note on and off his desk, over and over again.

"And that," said Mr. Sword, pointing at Wolf, "is much more like an aphorism."

Then he went to the board and started writing furiously.