

By David Wiesner, Retold in words by the **Primary** children of **Atlantic** Academy, 6th March 2020



TUESDAY EVENING, AROUND EIGHT

One magical, moonlit night as the tired sun vanished peacefully behind the shadows of the brown, twisting branches of an old oak tree, the white moon, revealed a colourful, pink candy floss sky that danced upon the mystical, tranquil pond. There was nothing but the quiet sound of the buzzing crickets and the long, green grass swaying and hushing in the calmness.

All was still and dangerously quiet.







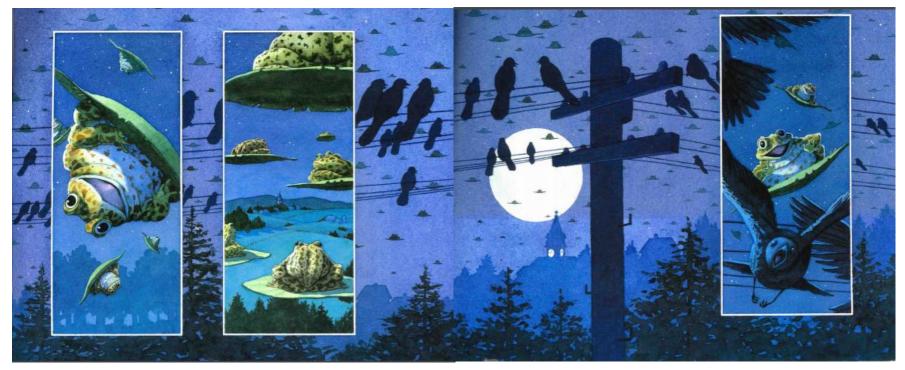
5A



That evening, the strangest things were happening. The sky was covered by a mist as thick as candyfloss. The pond looked almost enchanted with the water as indigo as ever. An over-sized turtle was slowly crawling across an old, ebony log. The beautiful, welcoming pond glistened at the light of the luminous moon. The stars twinkled at each other on that extremely quiet night but not everything was quiet. The only thing not, were the toads.

Most curiously, the tiny, lime-green lily pads were carrying 5kg toads! What was going on? Even the colourful fish were coming up from their underwater slumber to see what was happening. How were these massive, fat toads flying on lily pads? Where were they heading? Even though they didn't know what was going on, the frogs seemed unusually calm and happy. What on earth was happening?

RB



The toadz r flling in the night. Thay ar farst. sum r upsighd down. the toadz r sgairing cros. they r on an nvenchur.

(The toads are flying in the night. They are fast. Some are upside down. The toads are scary and cross. They are on an adventure.)



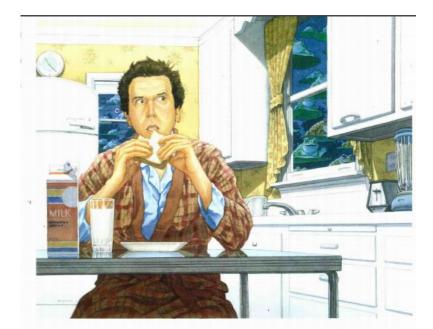
The unusual, magical toads with gargantuan green eyes were quietly floating around on the soggy, squelchy lily pads above the huge, white, posh houses. Beware. Have you ever seen flying giant toads? Do you know what they are going to do? Lots of people were still sleeping while the toads were floating all around.

5B 11:21 P.M.

Croak!!

He paused: His hands, which wanted to move, were paralysed in place; the dry lump of sandwich slowly travelled down his throat as it reached his growling stomach. He should have had supper earlier. The heavenly waft of sweet, sticky jam travelled to his nostrils making his stomach shriek with hunger. A tantalizing, sticky drop of jam slowly fell to the plate like a slow motion movement. Exhaustedly, he had only just come home from work, he couldn't believe he had now been disturbed, his shift had been going on for what felt like weeks on end. His stomach gave a heavy growl as he was disturbed once again by a noise - what was out there?

He anxiously peered to his left. Who or what was it? Who was disturbing him? In the dim light, he stayed motionless as his eyes glanced at the clock - it was



11:21 pm - who could be there? His eyes caught a flash of green pass by - what was it? Did he see something pass him?

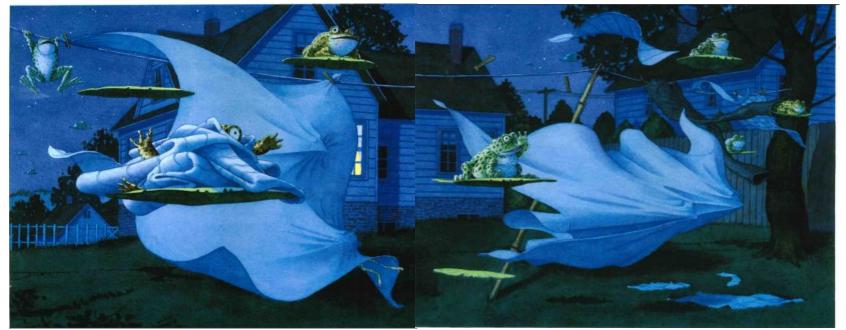
The sandwich, which had once appeared so deliciously tempting slid from his hands, crashing to the plate - was he going insane?

Was his mind cracking? He looked out at the gleaming window - he saw nothing but black - pitch black.

He must have been going mad - he slowly picked up his treat

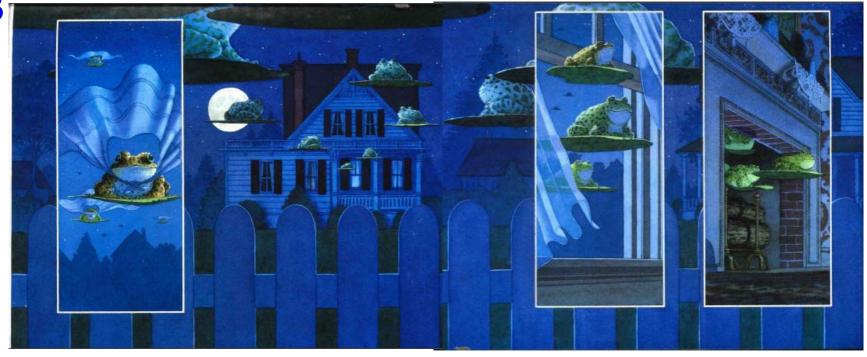
and carried on his feast.





The toads floo into the back garden. Theay floo into the cleen woshing that wos hung up on the woshing lin. The toads floo into cleen whit sheets that wor hung up on the woshing lin and thay got tangold up.

(The toads flew into the back garden. They flew into the clean washing that was hung up on the washing line. The toads flew into clean white sheets that were hung up on the washing line and they got tangled up.)



Through the starry night sky the toads fly on their lilypads with cloaks around their necks. Going silently towards a beautiful, old house, with the moon shining brightly behind it. I wonder who they are going to visit? One by one they glide quietly through the open windows and down the chimney. When they got inside they saw the beauty of the house.

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The green, slimy toads snuck into the old fashioned living room. They saw an old, wrinkly woman sleeping on a comfy chair. The naughty, cheeky toads decided to watch the massive, dusty TV. One of the croaky frogs found the remote and licked it. His slimy, long, disgusting tongue started changing the channels.

All the toads sat still in front of the shiny, blue light of the TV.

The white cat called Fluffy creeped into the living room and started spying on the toads because she wanted to know why they were in the living room and how they got into the house. Fluffy the cat was terrified of the toads, but the toads ignored her.

^{4A} 4:38 A.M.

It's early in the morning and 4.38 am everyone is asleep, well almost everyone.

Mysteriously there is a toad zooming past the garden hedges but this is no ordinary toad, it's a magic toad.

Calmly hovering on his magically lime green lily pad when ...

Shocked and petrified, the toad halted in mid-air. He pulled the stalk of the lily pad like a lever of a plane. He was face to face with the snout of a gigantic beast.

"Arrh" gasped the toad. "What is that, am I going to get eaten?"

A large vicious dog is chasing the mysterious magic toad past the green hedges and past the window with the confused man.









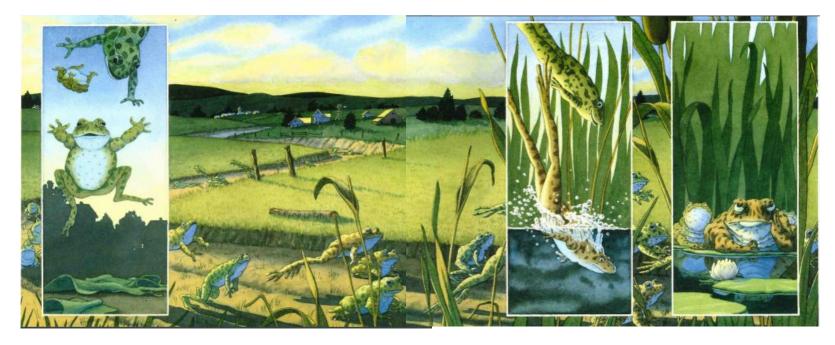
Just before dawn, when the moon was shining brightly onto the dewey, silvery grass. Something was stirring. What could it be? With a pop! A spotty toad, riding a flying lilypad, zipped out onto the lawn. Rapidly leaping out behind came Marble, bounding and yapping playfully. The pilot of the lily swishes from side to side, desperately avoiding his pursuer and diving into the rustling hedge. Marble dives in too.

All of a sudden, hundreds of pairs of beady eyes blink open in sync, staring coldly at Marble from the depths of the gloomy shadows. Petrified, Marble is frozen to the spot by the swarm of cold, luminous eyes. Ducking and diving, toads appearing everywhere in front of her she turns and runs, afraid for her life. From out of nowhere, a gargantuan, slimy toad lands on her muzzle. Dashing crazily around like a lunatic, she sends the frogs scattering, but they regroup for the final chase. As the shadows darken, the frog army closes in, Marble is surrounded. How can she escape this terror...?



Suddenly, the startled toads started falling out of the sky, crashing through the trees. A beautiful orange and yellow colour spread out across the horizon as daylight dawned and Wednesday awakened. All across town, people rubbed sleep from their eyes as they awoke to the new day. Some of the toads were stranded on mossy, steep roof tops, clinging on for dear life. How will they get down? Other toads sat calmly observing the scene with bulging, green eyes as their friends fell to earth. It seemed that the magic which helped them fly wore off with the dawning of Wednesday.

3A



As the sun rose in the sky and the day began to warm, the birds in the field started to chirp and tweet. Slowly, the toads came falling, drifting, floating to the ground. They landed, softly. "Ribbit. Ribbit. Ribbit." They hopped and bounced - boing, boing, boing - along the dusty path. The sun reflected off the emerald green pond. The toads dived elegantly into the cool refreshing water. Splish. Splash. Splosh. The toads returned to their lily pads. All was peaceful and silent. One toad sat sulking, disappointed that the fun had come to an end.

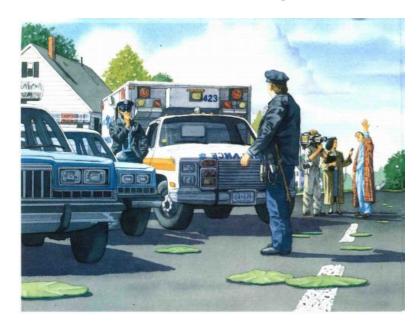
6A 6B



The Atlantic Times

5th March 2020

Midnight Mystery: Lily pad overload causes citizens to question.



Police arrive at the scene of the crime and calm citizens

At the crack of dawn on what appeared to be a normal Wednesday morning, investigators crowded the streets of Moonlake searching for an answer to the lily pad mystery.

As daylight first appeared, residents awoke to find themselves submerged in emerald-green lily pads with perplexing footprints on.

A few puzzled residents found some of their belongings missing during the night. Mr Hawking - a resident of Moonlake - quoted, "My washing was gone, nothing left, just pegs!" Jay Stewart was baffled by this complex event, he commented, "I was putting my birdseed out for the birds when I stepped in something squelchy and unpleasant."

Investigating officers have led us to believe that the local lake was empty of lily pads with toads now being the main suspects in this case. Officers plan to set road and box traps on Tuesday night to find more information about this event.

Local scientists (from the University of Moonlake) have hypothesised that toads have been out at night levitating on lily pads and their agenda may be led by their jealousy of humans leading them to steal our belongings.

Whilst officers have not reached a final verdict, we endeavour to keep you updated on this unfortunate event and monitor what happens in our town.

The Atlantic Times

5th March 2020

Mysterious lily pads cause disruption

Police rush to scene as over 200 lily pads were found scattered across local road



Dog tries to sniff out the source of the disruption.

Police were called early on Wednesday (the morning after the night in question) after the suspicious appearance of dripping wet lily pads believed to be from the local pond.

Concerned local residents reported bizarre incidents occurring throughout the early hours of the morning. "I woke up this morning to my washing thrown all over my back garden. One sheet was found in Mrs Rosebud's house." exclaimed a shocked Mrs Patterson of Wilbury Road. Questions have been raised whether these strange

phenomena are related to last night's full moon.

Sniffer dogs were called in to track down the source of this strange outbreak whilst police continue to interview people about these strange goings-on. "I was sat eating my late night sandwich, when I saw thousands of eyes staring back at me through my window." said one terrified resident who wished to remain anonymous.

Police are investigating whether these events are all linked; any further sightings or information should be reported to the local police.