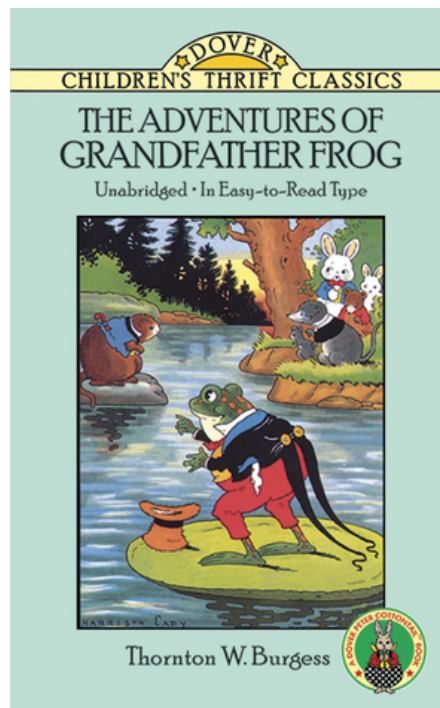




The Adventures of Grandfather Frog

Thornton W. Burgess , Harrison Cady (Illustrator)

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Determined to see the Great World beyond the familiar vistas of the Smiling Pool, Laughing Brook, Green Meadows, and Green Forest, Grandfather Frog leaps forth to tumble haplessly into the pitfalls of greed, boastfulness, and carelessness. In this time-honored classic, Thornton W. Burgess mixes exciting adventure and good-natured humor with gentle homily to spin a wholesome tale of animal characters that children have found irresistible for generations.

Woven into Grandfather Frog's adventures are the daring pranks of Jerry Muskrat, Little Joe Otter, and Billy Mink, the hunting exploits of Longlegs the Blue Heron and Whitetail the Marsh Hawk, and the brave deeds of Danny Meadow Mouse and Striped Chipmunk. Their interwoven stories, newly reset here in large, easy-to-read type, will delight children as they discover, one by one, the many good reasons why Grandfather Frog came to wish he had never, never thought of leaving the Smiling Pool to see the Great World.

The Adventures of Grandfather Frog Details

Date : Published September 18th 1992 by Dover Publications (first published 1915)

ISBN : 9780486274003

Author : Thornton W. Burgess , Harrison Cady (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Adventures of Grandfather Frog for online ebook

Andrea says

We love Thornton Burgess's books for children. They teach simple character building principles in the world of nature.

E.L. says

Kids ages when first read: 7 and 5. This was supposed to be the 5yo's school read-aloud, but in the best tradition of homeschooling, the 7yo kept sneaking away from her tasks to listen as well. The last time I tried reading Burgess to them, they were both bored stiff, so I was delighted that this time they both adored it. When I pulled out four more books in the "series," they snatched them out of my hands and settled down happily to peruse them. Definitely going to continue with these for school reading.

Pete Harmes says

Actually read a first edition, published in 1931. An absolute joy.

Dave says

My father also read this book to me, and it was another of the earliest I read for myself. It was the second book I could call a favorite. This book also had no paper cover, but a hard sandy-brown cover. All the interior artwork was in blacks and white, but the picture I liked best was like the one shown in this example.

Rachel says

My kids and I really enjoyed this read aloud, and we are looking forward to reading more books in this series.

Noella Van Looy says

In dit boekje leren we weer andere dierenpersonages kennen, zoals de kikker, de pad, de reiger en de muskusrat. Maar ook Danny Meadowmouse en Farmer Brown's Boy zijn weer van de partij. Heel leuke reeks.

Mindy says

I read this with my children and we all adored reading about Grandfather Frog and his adventures in the Smiling Pool and the Green Meadow! We always enjoy reading about animals and I especially love how there are little learning moments throughout the book. It is a great book to read and then discuss good & bad choices! And I also liked that this is an unabridged version of a true classic tale!

Lisa says

Great bedtime audiobook. Both boys loved it.

Susan Molloy says

Grandfather Frog is happy in his comfortable environment with his comfortable friends, Billy Mink, Jerry Muskrat and Little Joe Otter, and his comfortable life in Smiling Pool. One day, he gets into a little snit with his cousin, old Mr. Toad. They argue about which life is best—Mr. Toad’s travels in the world, or Grandfather Frog’s simple life around Smiling Pool. Grandfather Frog decided that he “would see the Great World if it killed him.” And off he went. What he discovers in the end becomes a lesson for readers.

I liked this short book. The author had a lovely way of describing characters, the scenes, and nature. He gave clever names to the animals (Longlegs the Heron, Whitetail the Marsh Hawk, *et al*) and to parts of nature (Smiling Pool, Little Breezes, *et al*). There is humor when the little animals play a trick on Grandfather Frog and they declare he was sleeping. He retorted:

”I wasn’t asleep!’ protested Grandfather Frog indignantly. ‘I was just thinking.”

The American author, Thornton Waldo Burgess was known in his time as the “Bedtime Story Man.” He was a prolific children’s story author for about 50 years, and he had a newspaper column called, “Bedtime Stories.” He lived from 1874-1965). He wrote his first stories using the *nom de plume* W. B. Thornton.

I highly recommend this book. It is very apropos for readers of all ages not only for the little subliminal moral and life lessons and humor, but also for its wonderful descriptions of nature and the habits of animals.

?Discovered on The Gutenberg Project for its illustrated copy and on Amazon Kindle (with no illustrations).

WSL Library says

x4

Joe Chiappetta says

While this is clearly a book designed to be read to children, I was blown away by all the simple but powerful life lessons wrapped into the plot of our hero: an old, stubborn frog.

Jonathan Marshall says

The Burgess Books

This is a phrase that brings a smile to my face as often as I hear it. As a young child, I would lose myself for hours in the simple world of the wood and pond inhabited by Little Joe Otter, Buster Bear, Grandfather Frog, and terrorized by Farmer Brown's Boy. I can remember the very shelf, even the exact spot in the little library in Felton, CA where these books were kept. I would return practically every week with a new armload to last me until our next trip to the library. Often I would carry out stories that I read several times before, just so I could once again escape into this imaginary world of furry mischief.

I remember these books well in concept, though the specifics of most of the stories elude me. It was easily fifteen years ago when I began reading them and has been over a decade since I last picked up one of Burgess' stories to read it. That being said, this review is being written as a look back.

These stories are very simple and very fun. Of course, they are children's literature, so that's to be expected, but these stories strike me as especially so. Even still, I can remember some fascinating things I gleaned between the their covers.

For one thing, Burgess did a fantastic job of presenting the ideas of perspective and motivation in simplistic terms. For example, "The Adventures of Danny Field Mouse" would cast Old Man Coyote as a vicious, mean creature wishing to prey on Danny and his friends and family. Yet, pick up instead "The Adventures of Old Man Coyote" and you'll see that when the story is told with him as the protagonist, those pesky field mice are annoying and useful for little more than a snack. After reading both books, you're no more inclined to think of Old Man Coyote as a villain than you are to think of Danny Field Mouse as a pest that should be exterminated. (Note: This is a generic example. I do not recall if Old Man Coyote plays a role in Danny Field Mouse's story or the other way around, but this concept was presented several times. It made an impression on me.)

The only characters consistently presented as antagonists were Farmer Brown and his boy. This would be one of the only things that I chalk up as odd, or maybe just a little "off" in these books. Humans and their influence on nature are presented as a negative influence on nature and animals - always. It's interesting to note though that while humans are seen as a negative, humanity is lauded and held up as virtuous. All of the animals take on not only human personalities but characteristics, traits, and mannerisms. From a frog with a monocle and an otter with a handkerchief tied to a stick, to a busy-body Jay and a reclusive owl who desires only to be left alone, humanity and its traits keep cropping up.

Which would be another thing of value I feel that I saw in the Burgess books. These stories are full of social interaction and personality conflicts, even if they are caricatured more often than not. We see over and over again a working out of peace, if not harmony, between conflicting personalities. It may not always be easy to point out a scripture to reinforce the lesson implied, but social harmony is presented and more often than not, resolution is through reconciliation, forgiveness, or a similar method that is not only laudable, but distinctly Christian in action if not motivation.

All in all, the world created by Thornton W. Burgess is imaginative, innocent, fun, and educational. My recommendation? Grab a handful from your local library, gather a group of kids as an excuse, and lose yourselves in childhood imaginations as you read aloud the stories that have captivated several generations of young readers with the antics of our furry, albeit elusively human, friends.

(Disclaimers: As I said, it has been over a decade since I actually read one of Burgess' books. As such, there may be a specific example that's a little off in this review or something that I would have noticed as an adult that my childhood memories are missing. Also, all of these books say I read them in 1998. While I'm certain I read several of them that year, I'm sure I read some before and after that date as well.)

Lady Clementina finch-farrowmore says

Grandfather Frog decides to leave the Smiling Pool for a bit and go see the wide world but soon realises, there's no place like home!

Karin says

My 7 yr old gave these books a 5. I agree. "His books are awesome" she says. I liked the way morals were told in an entertaining way. I bet my daughter didn't feel she was being moralized at because she wanted to hear the whole book. I've tried others that had a distinct 'moral' or 'value' and she hates it. (Books that go ... is thankful or ... learns to be honest. blah.

Burgess books are interesting entertaining and a good read. Hopefully the little lessons learned by the animals were also learned and put away in the back of my daughter's mind!

But if not, that's ok. A book is meant to entertain and if it did that, that works for me.

They are a little 'old-fashioned' meaning the sun is called: Mr. round red jolly sun, the wind is Old Mother West Wind, a breeze is One of Mother West Wind's Children, the Merry Little Breezes etc. Quaint and not exactly science but endearing nonetheless. But other than that these books are science in story form. The stories are about real life things that frogs or bears or skunks do or could do. Unlike most books with animals as main characters where they learn to ride bikes, win the spelling bee at school etc. Beginning animal lore for young children. Or budding animal lovers.

If you miss any of these from your local library they are also on Gutenberg's free books site.

Personally I think that these should be re-released with new covers so kids will read them again.

The books themselves:

Grandfather Frog: He decides it's time for him to see more of the world. A little risk keeps life exciting. He has some exciting adventures before discovering 'there's no place like home'.

Morals/ values/ lessons intertwined in the book: greed, mischievousness, thoughtlessness, patience.

Danny Meadow Mouse: Danny gets upset because he has a short tail. He also gets caught by Hooty the Owl, who wants him for dinner.

Morals/ values/ lessons intertwined in the book: greed, anger, envy, kindness, friendship, look before you leap.

Buster Bear: Buster moves to the Green woods. This doesn't please the other animals because he takes 'their' fish, and they are frightened of him. But when the animals find out that Farmer Brown's Boy is afraid of Buster, they look at him with new eyes...until they find out the next personality trait Buster shows.

Morals/ values/ lessons intertwined in the book: temper, new friends come to the neighborhood.

Old Mother West Wind: A group of stories with Mother West Wind or her Little Breezes helping the animals of the Meadow and forest. A couple of 'how the xxx got/ lost zzz' stories also that were quite entertaining.

Morals/ values/ lessons intertwined in the book: vanity, friendship, contentment, helpfulness.

Old Man Coyote: Something is making a new sound in the Green Meadows/ Green Forest. The animals don't know what it could be. When it is discovered who has moved in, Granny Fox is determined to oust them from HER feeding grounds. Granny is in for a surprise because this stranger isn't easy to fool.

Morals/ values/ lessons intertwined in the book: courage, resisting temptation, good planning.

Kent says

Bedtime stories for Rhino and Ghator ...
