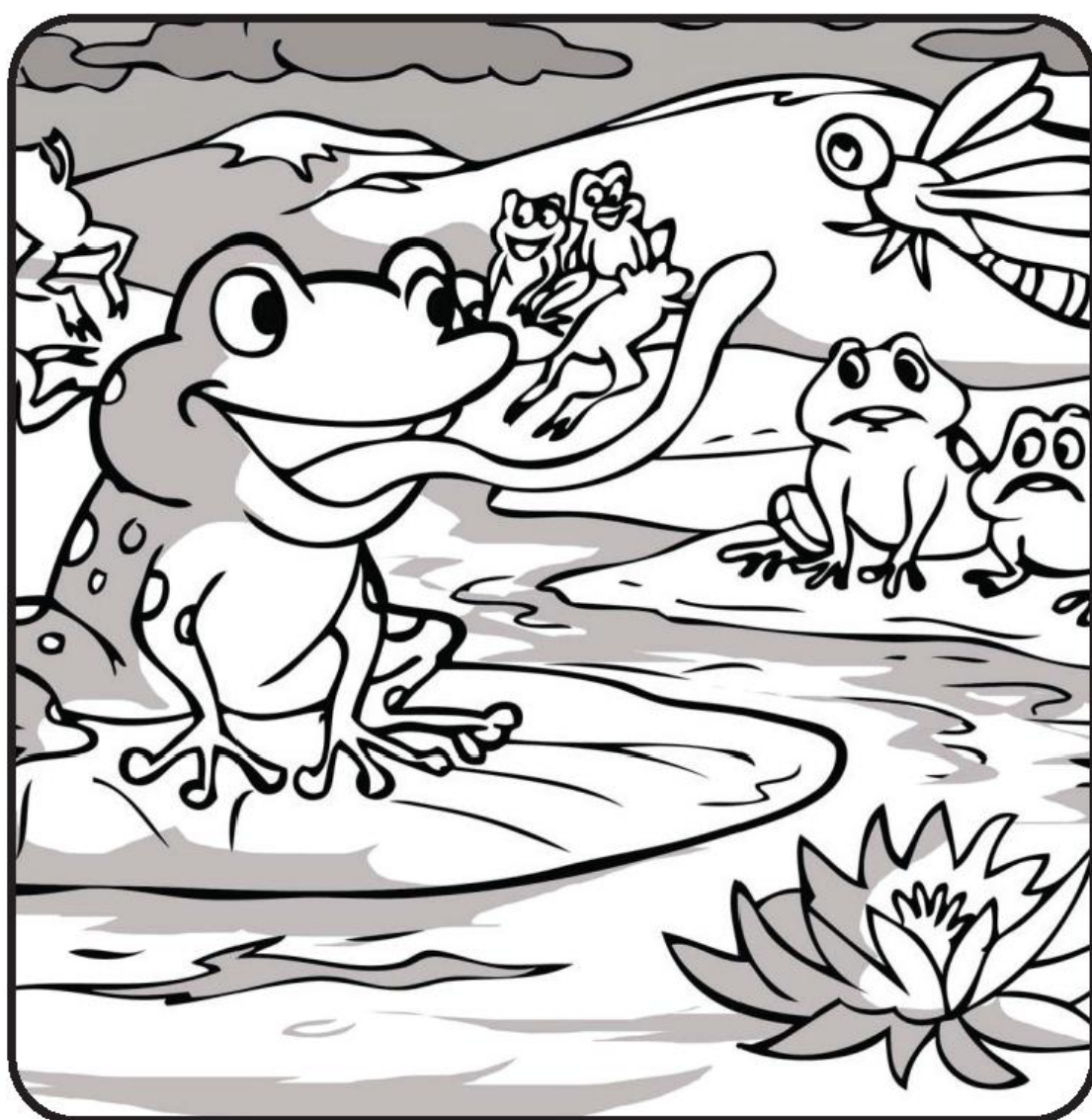


Leveled Reader

in Filipino

Benjie's Long Trip



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It was raining hard. The water in the pond was getting high. All the frogs dove and swam to shore. It was safer, far from the fast flowing water where they could be swept away down the stream.

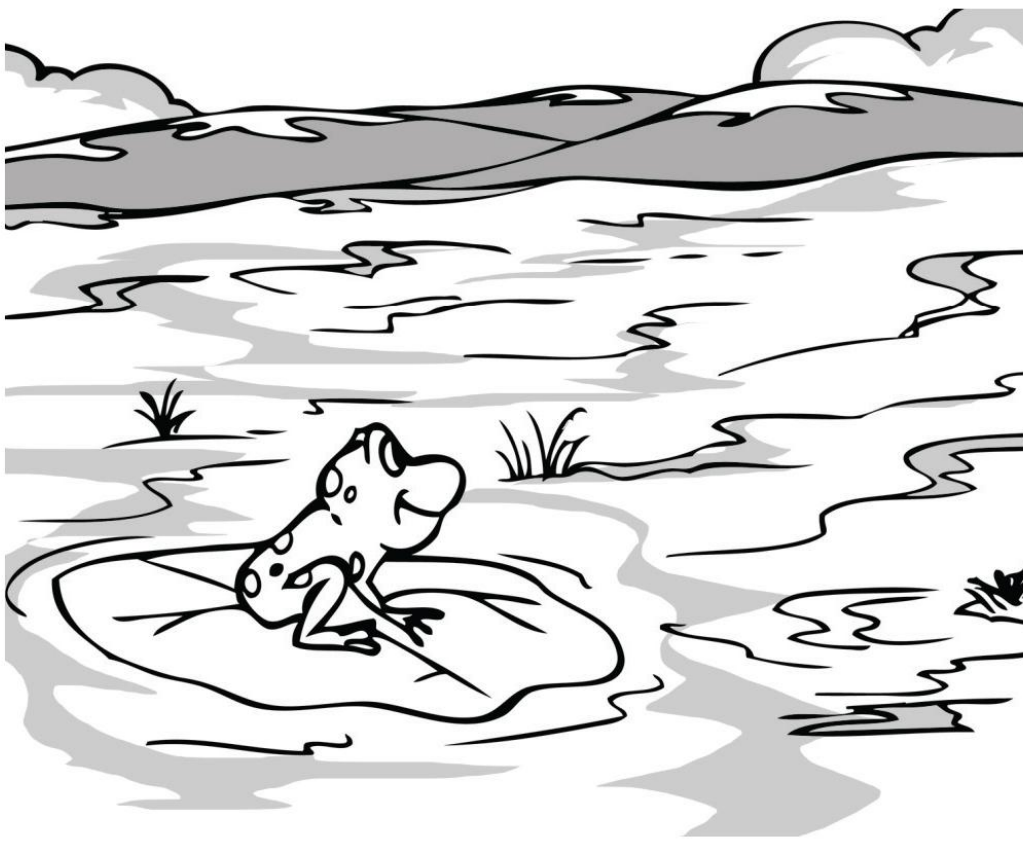
But Benjie was afraid to dive into the deep water and join the others. He stayed on his big leaf.



There was too much rain and too much water in the pond. The pond water began to run down the hill.

Benjie's parents yelled, "Jump! Dive! Swim!" They pointed to the shore.

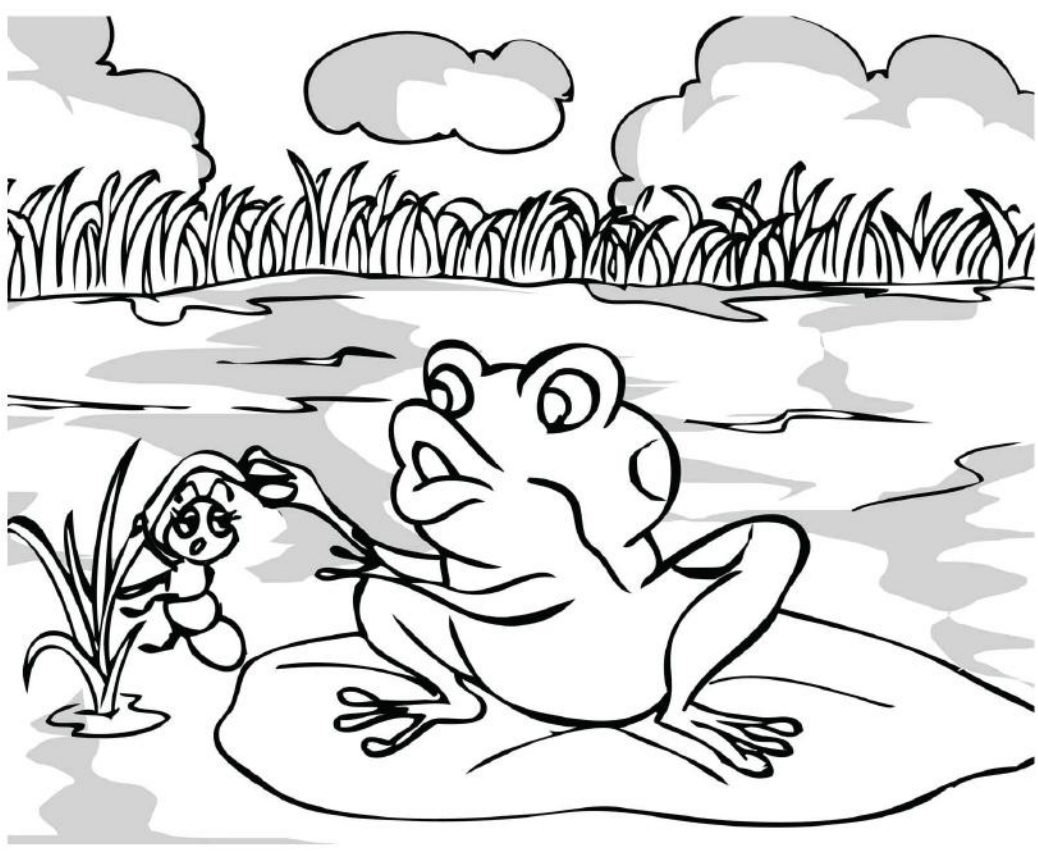
But it was too late. The leaf began to float down the stream. Benjie had no choice. He had to stay on the leaf or he would drown.



Benjie had never been away from the pond. The stream widened to a river and, for the first time, Benjie saw a wide open valley.

“Wow! The sky is so big here,” he said to himself.

Benjie began to enjoy his trip on the river.



Then Benjie heard a faint cry, “Help! Help!”

He spotted an ant clinging to a thin blade of grass. Benjie grabbed the blade of grass and told the ant to climb onto his leaf.

“No! No!” said the ant. “You will eat me!”

“I don’t like ants,” said Benjie. “You are too crunchy for my taste! Climb onto my leaf!”



The ant climbed onto Benjie's leaf.

Benjie said, "Welcome! My name is Benjie. I am going down the hill where the water will take me."

"My name is Anna," said the ant.
"I am happy to join you."

Benjie told Anna he was afraid of diving. Anna told Benjie she did not know how to swim.

Skill Builder 1

Phonics: Diphthongs oi and oy

Spelling Words

enjoy

point

appoint

annoy

moist

choice

employ

spoil

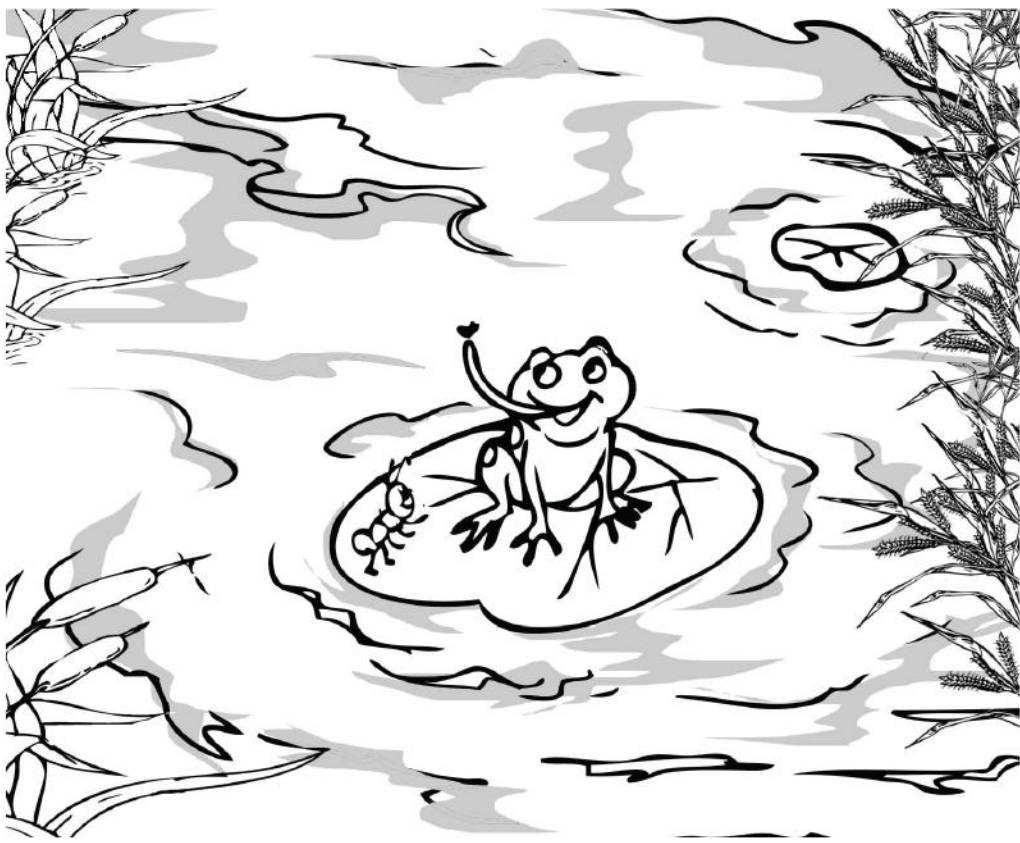
coil

Write each word under the correct column based on its spelling pattern.

oy	oi



Benjie and Anna had been floating on their leaf for two days. The rain had stopped and the sun was hot. Benjie splashed water on himself to stay moist. But Anna said she liked to stay dry.



During the day, Benjie and Anna saw fields of soy plants far on the left, and rice paddies near the water on the right. They enjoyed seeing new places.

Benjie loved this open space. He was amazed at all the flies he could catch in this wide valley.



At night, Benjie and Anna talked about their families and friends. Anna told Benjie about her many friends and the games they played together. Benjie told Anna about how the other frogs made fun of him because he was afraid of diving in the deep water.



One morning, Benjie and Anna woke up to find that they were no longer floating down the river. Their leaf had come to stop on the shores of a lake.

The water was calm and it seemed as if this place was going to be their new home. Benjie and Anna spent many days lounging by the lake.

Skill Builder 2

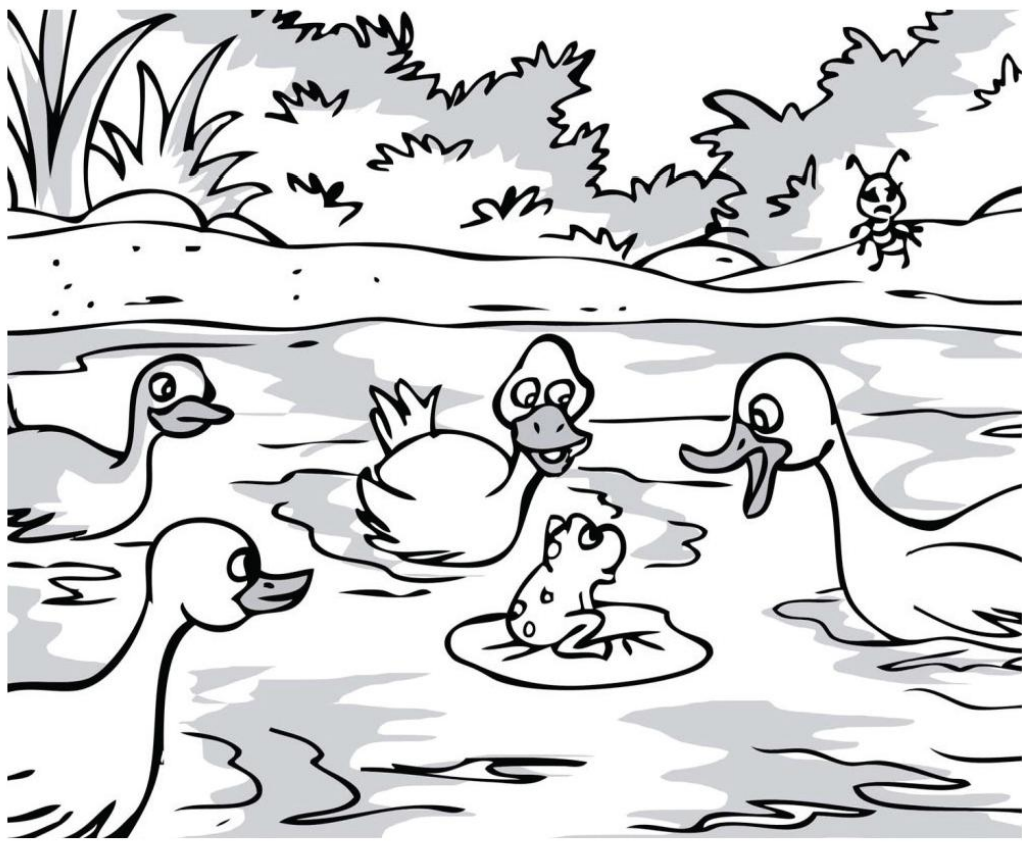
Vocabulary: Synonyms and Antonyms

A. Circle the synonym of the underlined word in the sentence.

- 1) Rice grows in wet and moist soil.
- 2) Hard work is needed since planting is difficult.
- 3) But it is helpful to grow such a useful plant.

B. Give an antonym for each word.

- 4) wet - _____
- 5) hard - _____
- 6) useful - _____



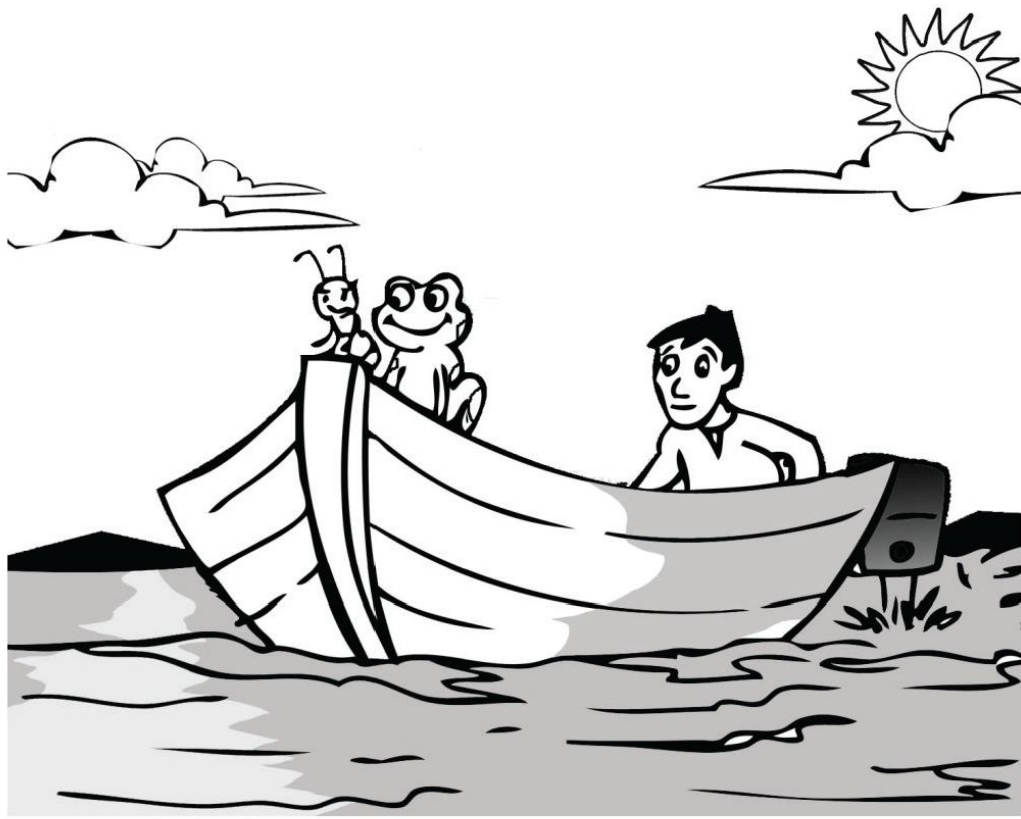
Benjie was lucky. The ducks were happy to help. They pointed where the river went through a valley, with fields of soy plants on the left and rice paddies on the right. Then it went up, through a forest, and later it became a stream. It led to a pond high up on Mount Kilung.

“But how will we get there?” asked Anna. “We can’t float up the river!”



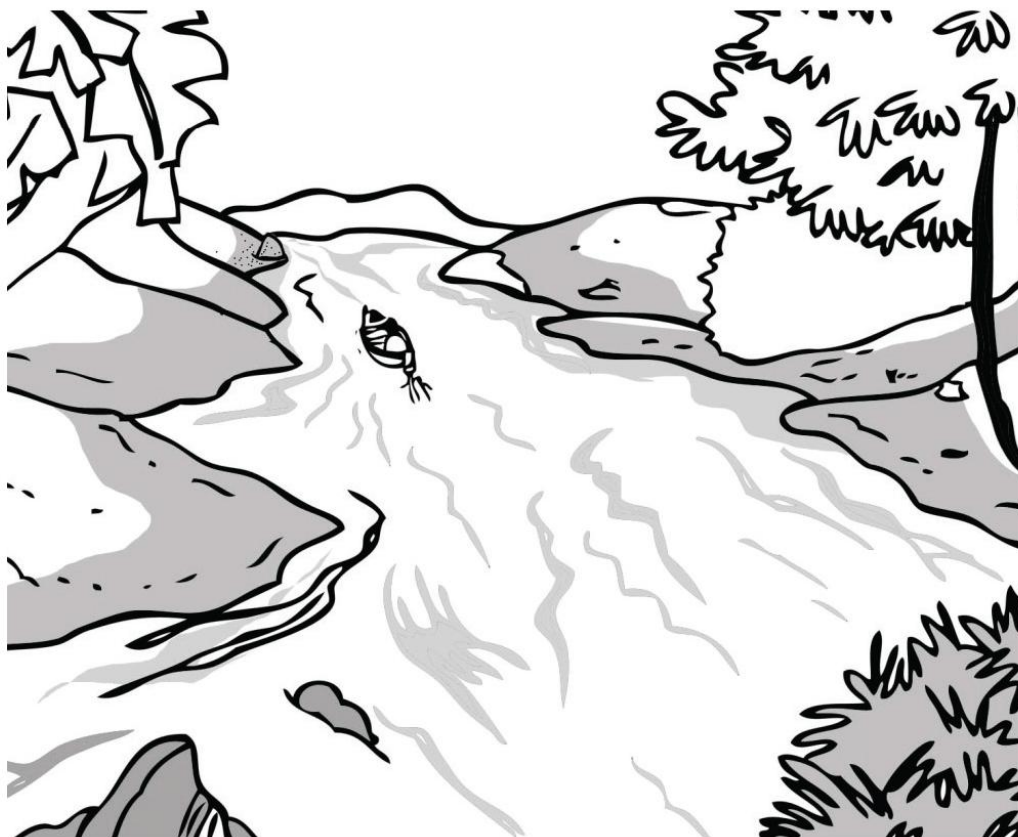
Benjie and Anna thought long and hard. They walked slowly on the dry ground with their heads bowed. They made no sound as they thought, and thought, and thought well into the night.

Finally tired, they climbed onto a hollow log. Maybe tomorrow would give them a new idea.



The next morning, they were awakened by the loud sound of a motor. The log they slept on was a boat!

The boat traveled fast up the river. It was a nice day, but it was a nicer ride up the river to the mountain. Anna was already feeling better and Benjie was glad.



The trip went on for hours. First, they went past the green valley of soy plants on one side, and the plowed rice fields on the other. Then, they went through the green forest. They went farther and farther up until the river got smaller and smaller.

Soon, as they came around a bend, Anna spotted her home.

Skill Builder 3

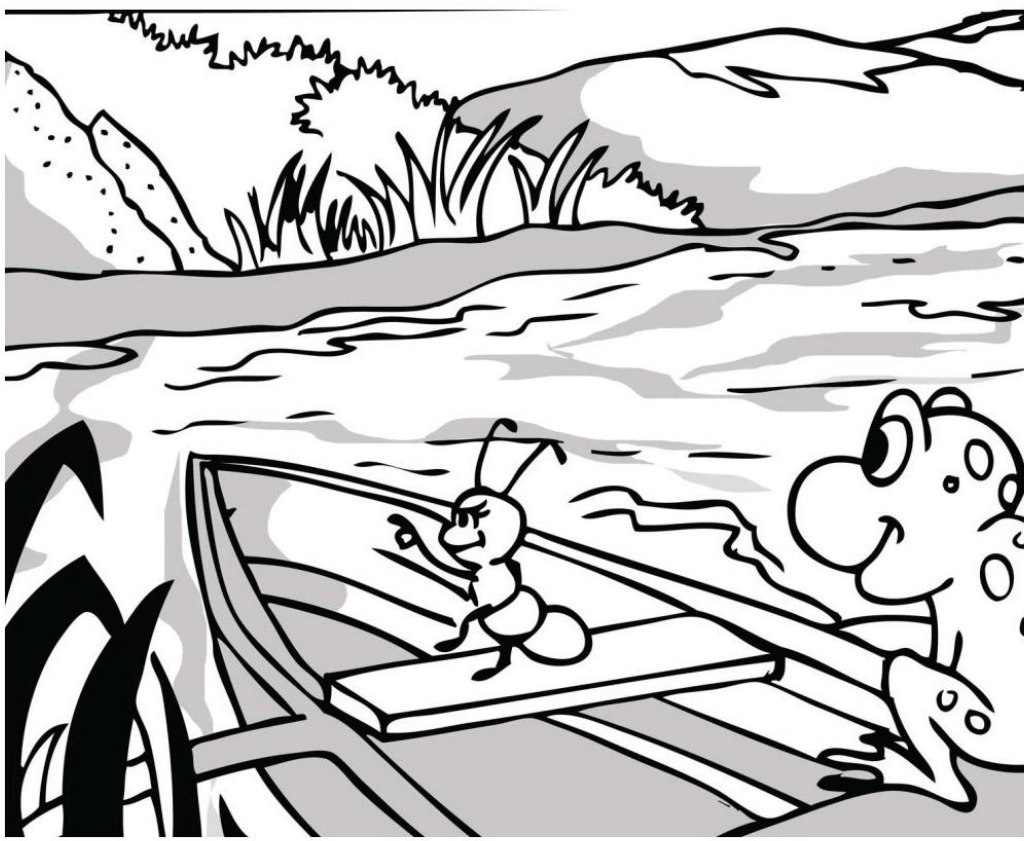
Phonics: Diphthongs ou and ow

Spelling Words

ground	sound	mount
thought	could	doubt
would	drought	should
brown	town	without

Write each word under the correct column based on its spelling pattern.

ou	ow	oddball

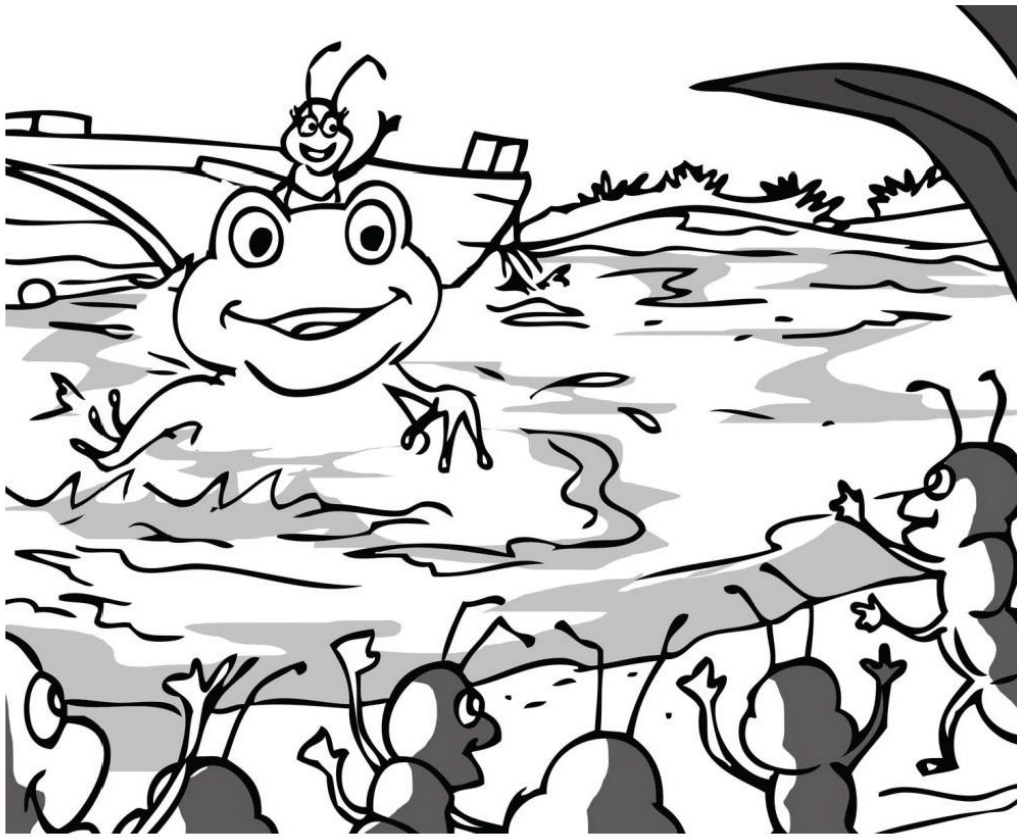


Anna was so happy that she jumped up and down like a frog.

“Hop on my back,” said Benjie. “I will swim to shore.”

“Are you not afraid of swimming in deep water?” asked Anna.

“Not anymore, and it will make you happier to be with your family and friends!” said Benjie.



Benjie carried Anna to shore where her family and friends were waiting. They were so excited to see her that they had the biggest party their ant town had seen.

The ants also thanked Benjie. He was their hero! Without him, Anna would have been lost forever.



That night, Benjie sat on the ground looking up at the moon and stars. He could hear the loud water in the stream. He could feel the cool air blowing. He could smell the fresh flowers growing. He could rest in the moist, brown soil.

This was a nice place. This could be his home!



Benjie stayed with the ants for many days. He spent his time swimming. Every day, he would swim in deeper water and stronger currents. He also kept catching a lot of flies. He liked the places he saw and he liked this quiet place by the stream. It was different from the loud pond up Mount Kilung.



But then one day, Benjie felt different, too. He saw how Anna had fun with her friends. He felt how much Anna's family had missed her. He watched how Anna was proud of her ant town.

Then, he said to himself, "I miss my brothers and sisters. I miss the other frogs, too. I should find my way home!"

Skill Builder 4

Grammar: Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement

Underline the antecedent. Then, complete each sentence by filling in the correct pronoun.

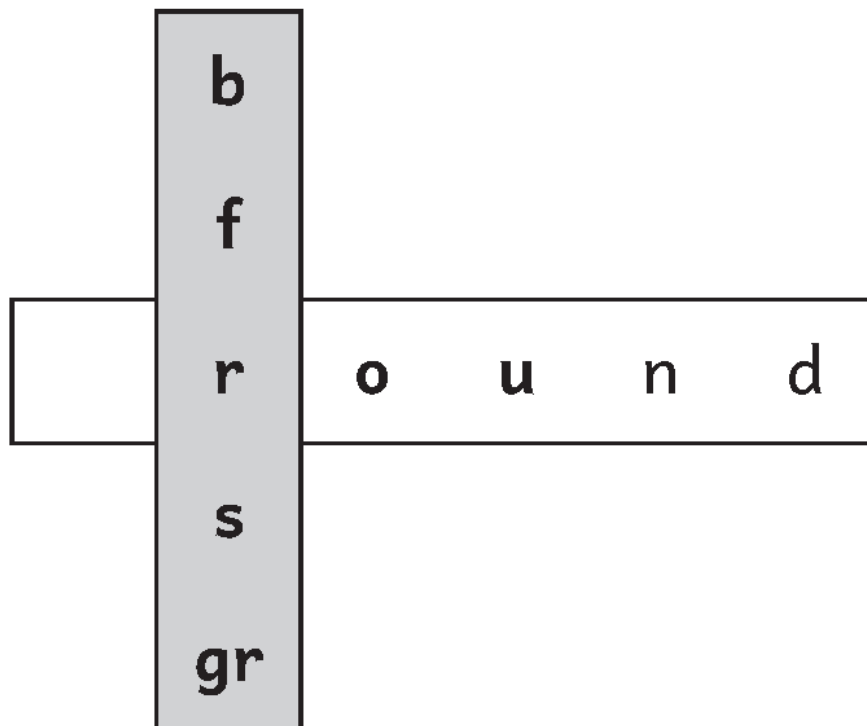
- 1) Benjie can whip out _____ tongue really fast.
- 2) Anna doesn't like flies in _____ food.
- 3) Flies make buzzing sounds with _____ wings.
- 4) Frogs flick _____ tongues to catch the flies.

Extra Fun

Create word strips for the word “families” in the **ou** and **ow** word list.

- 1) Cut board paper into a rectangle measuring about 2 inches by 3 inches.
- 2) Write the given word ending on the right side of the rectangular board.
- 3) Cut 1.5 inch slits at the top and bottom on the left side.
- 4) Cut another strip of paper with a width slightly smaller than 1.5 inches.
- 5) Write the word “beginnings” on this long strip of paper that would fit the given word “families.”

Example:



Extra Fun

Now that you have read the story about Benjie, make a map that shows his trip.

1) Write down three places Benjie visited on his trip.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2) Draw a map with pictures that shows the places Benjie visited.

3) Write a sentence under each picture that tells about the place Benjie visited.

A Map of Benjie's Long Trip

