

Strategies Together: *Creating Stories*

Texts for the Online Activity

A Frog's Tale

Have you ever wondered about the life of a frog? Let me tell you! I'm a pretty early riser, getting up at 7:00 p.m. That's crazy early for frogs because we're nocturnal. But I like waking up early so that I can see the moon rise. What a beautiful sight that is! It looks like a golden jewel rising in the east.

At 11:00 p.m., the family and I eat a hearty breakfast of flies. Have you ever visited our pool? Lake Kego is the best! The water is so clear, you can see down to the bottom!

After lunch, my parents make me take a nap at around 3:00 a.m. Naps are soooo boring. Blah! I usually sleep until 5:00 a.m., and wake up quite the groggy froggy. But by 7:00 a.m. I'm alert and my stomach is growling like crazy! I eat a few grasshoppers and a snail. Most people don't know frogs eat snails, but they are my favorite!

After sunrise, I hop off to my favorite mud hole, and snuggle deep to stay cool in the sun's heat. At 11:00 a.m., I fall fast asleep. Once in a while, I wake at 3:00pm because the other forest creatures are making so much noise, but it doesn't bother me that much. The forest is a wonderful place to live!

Timeline

7:00 p.m. Rise and shine; the moon is rising!
11:00 p.m. Breakfast, then to the pool.
3:00 a.m. Naptime: what a bore.
7:00 a.m. Stomach grumbling. Supper!
11:00 a.m. Lights on; sleep tight!
3:00 p.m. NOISY forest!

Don't Swim in the Lake

by George Tau

Mara couldn't wait for summer vacation. She was actually going to Camp Mill Lake. Mara had finally saved enough money to make her dream come true. She and four of her best friends were leaving the next day for the two-month-long stay. Mara had read almost every online review about the camp, she knew there were going to be campfires, s'mores eating contests, horseback riding, and volleyball tournaments on the beach.

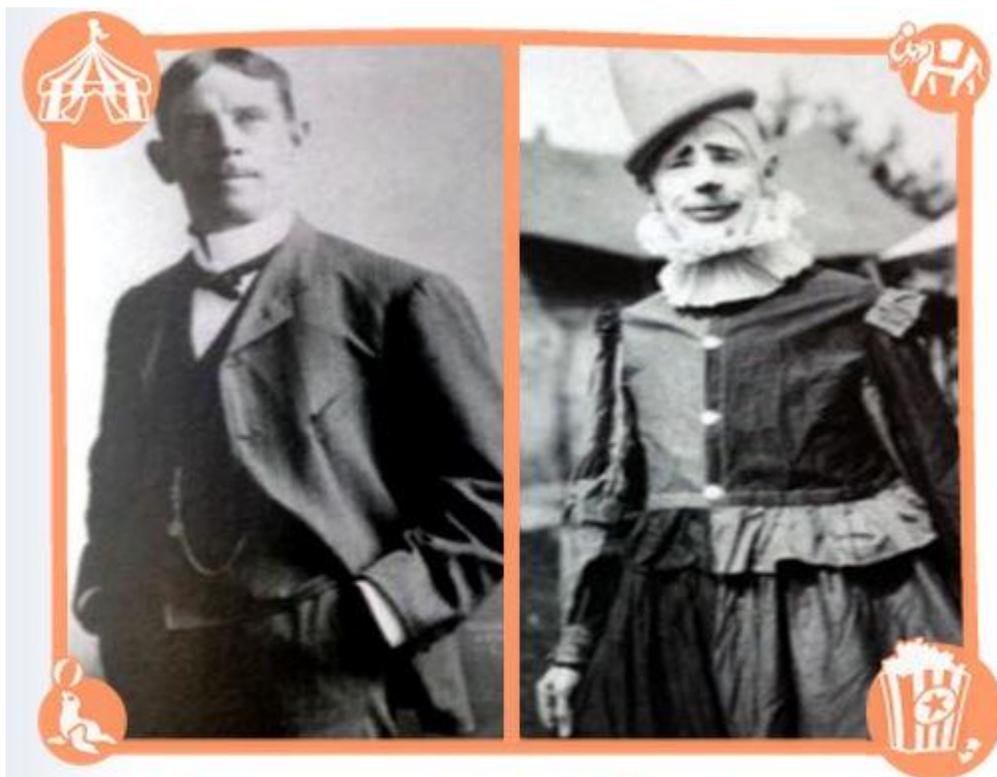
And the lake! How could she forget about the lake! Last year four boys had drowned when they went for a late-night swim. They were all on the swim team, so no one could figure out how it happened. Some people thought they were murdered. But Mara wasn't going to let that scare her. She was going to swim every day!

Tents, Tigers and the Ringling Brothers

Apps, J. (2007). *Tents, tigers and the ringling brothers*. (pp. 50-51). Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Historical Society Press.

The first big top show started at 2 p.m. sharp. The ringmaster waved his arms up and down, and in a loud voice said, "Ladies and gentleman, children of all ages." It was the traditional way of welcoming people to the circus. The ringmaster then introduced the first event—a colorful parade of animals and performers, a hint of what was to come. This was called a spectacle (spek tuh kul).

For the next two hours, awestruck visitors saw high wire aerialists (aire ee uh lists) swinging high up in the tent. In three different rings they watched jugglers, bareback riders, and elephants perform.

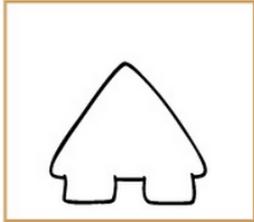


Jules Turnour, one of the Ringling clowns, in street clothes and in clown makeup.

How to Draw a Monster

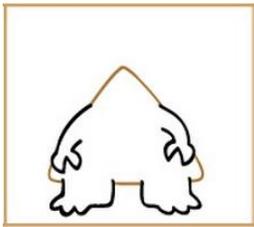
Step 1:

Start by drawing a triangle shape that will become the monster's body. Then add chunky rectangular feet to both bottom corners of the triangle.



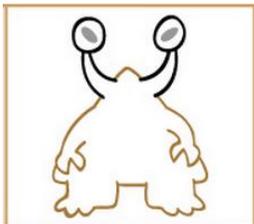
Step 2:

Draw short arms that hang in front of the monster's body. Add crabby claws for hands. Make three wide toes to each foot.



Step 3:

The monster's eyes are at the ends of long curvy tentacles. Make them get skinnier at the ends. Then put big round froggy eyes on the top of each one.



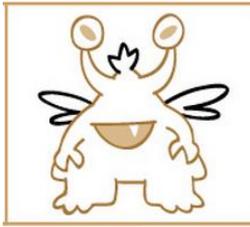
Step 4:

Draw a half circle to create a large mouth in the center of the body. Fill with some pointy monster teeth.



Step 5:

Add small oval fairy wings to its shoulders and pointy triangular feathers on top of its head. Congratulations! Your monster is finished!



Hungry

Oh this hunger, oh this pain
I feel like I might go insane!
It has only been an hour or two
But I feel like I may turn blue.

I really want a sandwich now
Something quick I can chow.
Cookies would really be delish
Certainly more tasty than fish.

Maybe I should head to the store
But I doubt I'll make it to the door.
This hunger inside is really growing
I feel like my ribs now are showing.

Maybe I can make some chocolate cake
Or even a nice juicy T-bone steak.
What about a big ol' can of peas?
Making that would be a breeze.

I don't know what to do right now
I wish my hunger would take a bow.
Guess I'll wait an hour more
And hope I don't fall to the floor.