

Learning to Leap

D'Asia Falodun & Sarah Patchen

Pre-Reading Questions:

- Describe a **goal** that was hard to **accomplish**.
- Why was that goal hard to accomplish?

There once was a frog. His name was Fred. The frog wanted to know how to jump. He had seen his friends jump and wanted to do it, too. Fred was not **confident**, but hoped he would **achieve** his goal one day.



It was a sunny day, and Fred was playing with his friends, Joe and Lilly.

“Guess what!” Lilly screamed.

“What?” Fred and Joe screamed together.

“I won the jumping **contest** at school!” Lilly said.

“I bet I can jump farther than you!” Joe responded.

“I bet you cannot! Ready or not, here we go!”

Joe and Lilly started jumping on the **lily pads** across the **pond**. As they jumped farther away, Fred was **disappointed** his friends had left him behind. Lilly saw that Joe was ahead of her and decided to jump two lily pads at one time. As soon as Joe made it to the other side of the pond, Lilly fell into the water. When Lilly got out of the water, they started **laughing**.

“I told you I would win first place!” Joe said.

“At least I was not third!” Lilly said.

Lilly and Joe laughed, thinking Fred was right behind them. “Where is Fred?” Lilly asked Joe.

Joe and Lilly looked back and saw Fred on the other side of the pond.

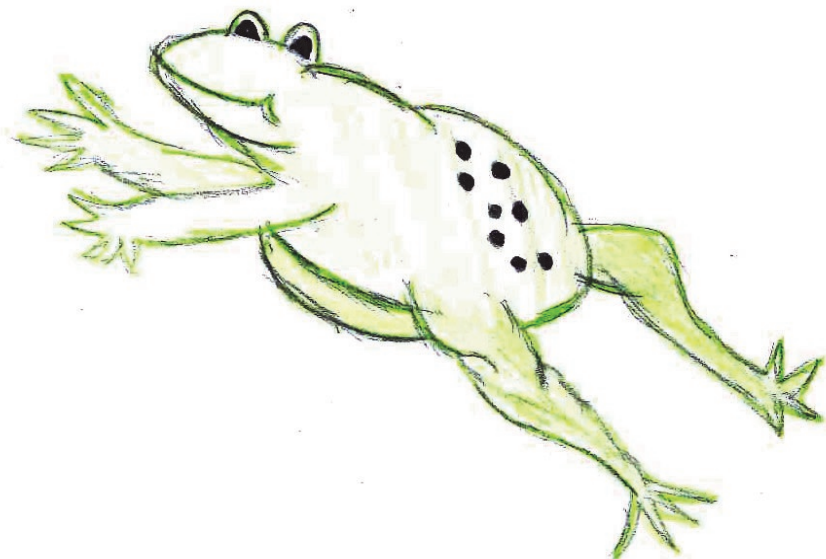
“Why didn’t you **finish** the **race**?” Joe asked.

“I never started. I don’t know how to jump,” Fred said sadly.

“Why didn’t you tell us?” Lilly said.

“We could teach you!” Joe said.

Joe and Lilly showed Fred many ways to jump, but Fred was **unsuccessful**. Lilly told him to bend his knees and reach for the stars, but his legs were too weak. Joe showed him how to jump off rocks, but Fred was not able to **copy** him.



“I do not want to do this anymore!” Fred screamed. “I will never learn how to jump!”

“You can do it, Fred!” Joe and Lilly screamed trying to comfort him.

Fred closed his eyes and **pictured himself** jumping across the pond. Fred whispered to himself,

“I can do this! I can do this!”

Fred stepped onto the first lily pad and successfully jumped to the second one. As he continued jumping, his friends **cheered him on**. Before he knew it, Fred had jumped across the pond.



D'Asia Falodun is an eighth grader at TEAM Academy. She likes to dance and draw.

Sarah Patchen is a freshman at Indiana University. She enjoys dancing and reading.