

story time

with Jill Haywood

hidden - amagat
spawn - posta de granota
tadpoles - capgrossos
wise - savi
loud - sorollós
peace - pau
mare - euga
neigh - rinir



Avui a l'Story Time escoltem l'història d'una illa molt especial on viuen el rei i la Reina de las granotes i uns fullets magics.

The Island

Once upon a time in a hidden valley, there was a beautiful lake. In the centre of the lake was an island. On the island there were several small trees and one large fir tree.

This island has a name: Lakeland Fall

There were two groups on this island. The frogs, who lived on the lake shore and in the lake itself and also the wood elves who lived in the trees. For years the frogs and the elves had been enemies.

Today we are going to see the life of the frogs. They had a king and queen, King Ribrib and Queen Ranala. The King and Queen had many children and they all enjoyed their days swimming in the clear water of the lake and playing among the reeds. There were abundant flies and moths for the frogs to eat.

Every year in March the King and Queen had more spawn which soon turned into tadpoles. By August or September the cute little tadpoles had all lost their tails and turned into perfect tiny frogs. Each year a Prince and Princess were chosen from the new little frogs. The King and Queen were crowned 8

years ago so there were 8 princes and 8 princesses. Now it was autumn and the next evening they were going to have the special ceremony to crown this year's lucky froglets.

King Ribrib and Queen Ranala were swimming in the lake and talking about the hundreds of froglets and which would be chosen. They looked at how well they swam, who had the strongest legs, who listened carefully to Oran, the wise old frog who taught the young ones. Oran taught them how to catch the best food, how to sing the frog song, how to hide from the dangers from the sky, the evil birds which would make them disappear. The wise old frog told stories to help the froglets understand their history.

Ribrib and Ranala talked about the problems with the elves. What could they do? On the same day as the ceremony for the new prince and princess, the elves had a ceremony of peace and they wanted the frogs to be silent for 3 hours in the evening. Unfortunately this is when the frogs had their coronation and the frogs sang as loud as they could - with nearly a thousand frogs, it was LOUD!

The elves got angry at the noise made by the frogs singing. It was the elves sacred peace ceremony and they celebrated with a beautiful silent dance. The elves were so graceful when they danced. Anyone who saw them felt incredibly lucky to watch their elegant movements. The frogs never saw the dance, of course, as it was at the same time as their own ceremony.

Recently some Arabian horses had come to live in the fields near the lake. One intelligent mare was drinking water and overheard Ribrib and Ranala choose the new prince and princess and talk about the problems with the elves. She neighed softly and said, "Excuse me, but may I make a suggestion? As you have decided which of your children will be the new royal prince and princess of the lake, is there any reason not to hold the ceremony today rather than tomorrow? Perhaps the elves would like to be invited to your ceremony and tomorrow you could watch their beautiful dance of peace."

Ribrib and Ranala looked at each other in surprise. "Change the day! That is so simple!" exclaimed the king. "Why didn't I think of that?"

"I will go to see the elves," decided Ranala and she hopped off.

That weekend history was made on the island. For the first time in over 500 years, the elves attended the coronation ceremony and listened to the frog song without being angry and the next day the frogs were invited to the Elves Dance of Peace and thought it was the most beautiful dance they had ever seen.

King Ribrib and Queen Ranala hopped back to the lake after the dance and wondered what else might happen now that the frogs and the elves were friends instead of enemies.