

# froggy thinking



## Frog leaps:

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Frogs are green. Except when they're brown, or maybe blue and yellow. Frogs are dry and bumpy. Except when they're smooth and slimy. Frogs sing, or croak, or bellow; comical frogs ribbit. Frogs' feet can have webs or spurs or suction disks on the toes. Frogs are not toads, mostly. But all toads are frogs (members of the order Anura, of the class Amphibia, of the animal kingdom).

Frogs are cute and/or ugly. Frogs are deadly, usually to bugs but also to humans, at least when they come in amazing colors. (The frogs.) Frogs are important indicators of environmental quality. (Humans are deadly to frogs.)

Frogs are cultured, having figured in works as various as *The Frogs* by Aristophanes and *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare ("Eye of newt, and toe of frog..."--From *Macbeth* [IV, i, 14-15]). And they have been known to turn into princes.

### *The Frog*

*Be kind and tender to the Frog,  
And do not call him names,  
As "Slimy skin," or "Polly-wog,"  
Or likewise "Ugly James,"  
Or "Gap-a-grin," or "Toad-gone-wrong,"  
Or "Bill Bandy-knees":  
The Frog is justly sensitive  
To epithets like these.  
No animal will more repay  
A treatment kind and fair;  
At least so lonely people say  
Who keep a frog (and, by the way,  
They are extremely rare).  
-- Hillare Belloc*

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