

Jupiter and the Frogs

The Frogs were sad / to have no ruler of their own.// They sent messengers to Jupiter,/ father of gods,/ asking for a King.// He, seeing their **simplicity**, / **cast down** a large log **into** their pond.// The Frogs, scared at the splash of its fall, / hid deep in the bottom of the pool.// But they saw that / the log did not move, / and they swam again to the top of the water,/ felt no fear, and came to laugh at it.// They even climbed up and sat upon it.// After some time, / they began to think it wrong / to have a ruler so lifeless, so still.//

They sent a second message to Jupiter.// They prayed/ that he would **set over** them another King.// He gave them an Eel / to govern them.// When the Frogs found out his easy ways, / they sent a third time to Jupiter / to beg that he would choose for them / another, a stronger King.// Jupiter, now angry at their **complaints**, / sent a Heron, who **preyed** upon the Frogs / day by day, till there were none left / to croak upon the pond.//

カエルたちは悲しんでいた / 自分たちの支配者がいないことを。// 彼らはユピテル神に使者を送った / 神々の父 / 王を求めて// ユピテル神は、彼らの**素朴さ**を見て、/ 大きな丸太を彼らの池に**投げ捨てた**// カエルたちは、その丸太の落下による水しぶきに怯えて、/ 池の底深くに隠れた。// しかし、彼らは見た / その丸太が動かずにいること / そして彼らは再び水の上まで泳ぎ / 恐怖を感じず、その丸太をあざ笑うようになった。// 彼らはその上に登って座りさえした。// しばらくして、/ 彼らは、これが間違っていると思い始めた / これほど生気のない、じっとしたままの支配者を持つことを。//

彼らはユピテル神に二度目の伝言を送った。// 彼らは祈った / ユピテル神が別の王を**立ててくれる**ように。// ユピテル神は、彼らにウナギを与えた / 彼らを治めるために。// カエルたちは彼の安易なやり方を知ると、/ ユピテル神に三度目の伝言を送り、/ 自分たちのために選んでくれるよう懇願した / もっと強い別の王を。// ユピテル神は、今度は彼らの**不平不満**に怒り、/ サギを送った。// サギはカエルを**捕食**し、/ 日ごとに、一匹もいなくなるまで / 池の上で鳴くものがいなくなるように。//

Vocabulary

simplicity	単純さ
cast down	地面に投げる
	打ちのめす
into	中に
set over	任ずる
	(誰か、また何かの上の立場に)

complaint	文句
prey upon	餌食にする

TIPS 王様を求めるカエルたち

イソップ寓話の一説。

食べるに困らない平和な池のカエルたちが「こんなに退屈なのは命令してくれる王様がないからだ」と神様に、自分たちの王を求めます。何もしない丸太の王を馬鹿にし、言うことを聞かぬ王を不要とし、最後は力ある王のサギに食べられてしまう。本来は満たされている現状に不満を抱き、他者へ高望みし、努力しないままでは、力あるものに良い様にされる。自分自身がしっかり判断して物事を進めていく大切さが描かれている。

The Frogs were sad to have no ruler of their own. They sent _____ to Jupiter, father of gods, asking for a King. He, seeing their _____, cast down a large log into their pond. The Frogs, scared at the splash of its fall, hid deep in the bottom of the pool. But they saw that the log did not move, and they swam again to the top of the water, felt no fear, and came to _____ at it. They even climbed up and _____. After some time, they began to think it wrong to have a ruler so lifeless, so still.

They sent a second message to Jupiter. They prayed that he would set over them _____ King. He gave them an Eel to govern them. When the Frogs found out his easy ways, they sent a third time to Jupiter to beg that he would choose for them another, a stronger King. Jupiter, now angry at their _____, sent a Heron, who preyed upon the Frogs day by day, till there were none left to croak upon the pond.

Question 1: Why do the frogs ask for a king?

Question 2: Why does Jupiter get angry at the frogs?

Question 3: What kind of king do the frogs want?

Summarize: (Summarize the story, mentioning the three kings of the frogs, and what becomes of them)



*** Background knowledge:**

Aesop was an ancient Greek slave. He is famous for compiling or composing a great many fables. Legend has it that Aesop was incredibly ugly, but was gifted the ability to tell stories by a goddess because he was kind to her priestess. He used his ability to embarrass philosophers and kings and peoples. The people of Delphi forced him to jump off a cliff for his imprudent impudence.

*** Q&A Sample Answer**

Q1: The frogs want to be like everyone else. They want to be cool. They want a big empire with a glorious king.

Q2: Jupiter gets angry because the frogs are never happy, and they complain, and they are foolish.

Q3: The frogs want a king that is strong, and must be feared, but does only what they want him to do.

*** Summary Sample Answer**

(Very Short)

The frogs ask Jupiter for a king, and he gives them a log. Disappointed, the frogs ask for another king. They are sent an Eel, but complain again, and get a Heron which eats them.

(50 ~80 words)

The frogs ask Jupiter for a king, and he gives them a log. Disappointed by how the log does nothing, the frogs ask for another king. They are sent an Eel, but complain again because the eel is too easygoing. Jupiter is irritated by their discontent, and sends a Heron to be their king. The Heron eats every last frog.