

EXCUSE ME!

by

Lisa Kopelke

Summary

Burping makes Frog happy, but his friends don't like it. He visits another frog town where burping is common and learns that perhaps burping manners might be helpful after all.

Ideas for Family & Classroom use

Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

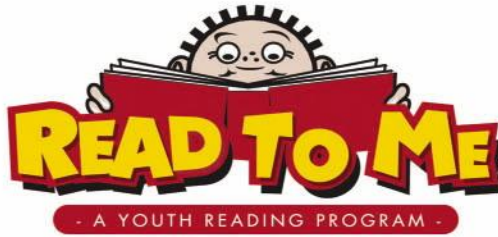
What does it mean to "have good manners?"

*Are you supposed to control your burping or just say 'excuse me' afterwards?
What do you think? What do you believe adults think?*

Why does Frog like to burp?

Why do the townsfolk demand that Frog leave their town? What made them change their minds later?

How does Frog come to really appreciate and know who his friends are?



Responding to the Story

Social Skills

Teaching about Good Manners

There are fabulous ideas about how to have fun teaching children about good manners. Below are two favorites. One involves a teacher or parent having “Magic Manner Dust.” The other is a song to teach your children about saying “excuse me.”

Magic Manner Dust

Did you know that magic manner dust is available for you to use in your classroom? You may even have a supply in your pocket right now! When students seem restless, explain to them that magic manner dust helps children listen quietly, speak kindly, and act politely. Model this wonder by reaching into your pocket and sprinkling the invisible dust over your head. After the students observe your polite behavior, encourage them to reach into their own pockets for a handful of manner dust. Sit back and watch the magic take effect!

TABLE MANNERS SONG (Sung to: Frere Jacques)

Chewing quietly, chewing quietly

Do not slurp, do not slurp,

We must say excuse me,

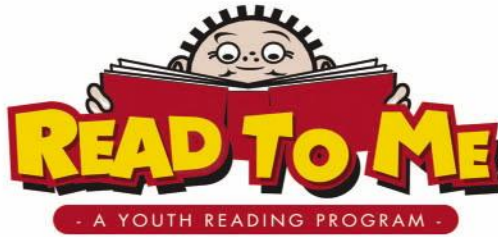
We must say excuse me

When we burp,

When we burp.

The above ideas are from this website that is filled with many ideas about teaching good manners to children:

<http://familycrafts.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?zi=1/XJ/Ya&sdn=familycrafts&zu=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hummingbirded.com%2Fmanners.html>



ART

Making Manners posters

Using Frog and his friends as examples, invite children to create manner posters for your classroom or home. Brainstorm manners children believe they all should remember, such as saying, “please,” “thank you,” and “Excuse me.” If there are specific manners you want your children to know for your particular situation, be sure to have a poster created for it.

Directions:

Using half of a 12 X 16” or larger piece of paper for classrooms, and large index cards or space appropriate-size paper for home, children can draw frogs displaying a lack of the specific manner chosen. On the other half, they can portray polite frogs demonstrating the manner. Display these reminders around your classroom or home and celebrate when children remember to use good manners.

Using good manners in public

Invite parents or special guests in for an event where children can demonstrate good manners. You might prepare a special tea where children dress up and serve their guests, or go to a special restaurant where good manners are expected. To organize this, you might invite a restaurant host or hostess in to talk to children about the proper use of manners when attending a special occasion. Then, arrange a special event (and hopefully a discounted cost) for children to go to a fancy restaurant for lunch or tea where the new manners can be used and demonstrated.

Technology

Good manners are fun

Teachers of grades 2-4 and their children may enjoy participating in the lessons at the website below that integrate the use of technology. The lessons include instructions for encouraging children to publish their own books about good manners, creating newspaper articles about good or bad manners and writing stories about mealtime disasters.

<http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=10807>

♥Created by Val Hornburg, Portland, OR, 2009