Frog and Toad Together

by Arnold Lobel

An I CAN READ Book®
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One morning Toad sat in bed.

“I have many things to do,” he said.

“I will write them all down on a list so that I can remember them.”

Toad wrote on a piece of paper:

A List of things to do today

Then he wrote:

Wake up
"I have done that," said Toad, and he crossed out:

Wake up
Then Toad wrote other things on the paper.

A List of things to do today

- Wake-up
- Eat Breakfast
- Get Dressed
- Go to Frog's House
- Take walk with Frog
- Eat lunch
- Take nap
- Play games with Frog
- Eat Supper
- Go To Sleep
"There," said Toad.

"Now my day
is all written down."

He got out of bed
and had something to eat.

Then Toad crossed out:

--- Eat Breakfast ---
Toad took his clothes out of the closet and put them on. Then he crossed out:

Get Dressed

Toad put the list in his pocket.
He opened the door
and walked out into the morning.
Soon Toad was at Frog's front door.
He took the list from his pocket
and crossed out:

Go to Frog's House
Toad knocked at the door.

"Hello," said Frog.

"Look at my list of things to do," said Toad.

"Oh," said Frog,

"that is very nice."

Toad said, "My list tells me that we will go for a walk."

"All right," said Frog.

"I am ready."
Frog and Toad
went on a long walk.
Then Toad took the list
from his pocket again.
He crossed out:

_Take walk with Frog_

Just then there was a strong wind.
It blew the list
out of Toad’s hand.
The list blew high up
into the air.
"Help!" cried Toad.

"My list is blowing away.
What will I do without my list?"
“Hurry!” said Frog.

“We will run and catch it.”

“No!” shouted Toad.

“I cannot do that.”

“Why not?” asked Frog.

“Because,” wailed Toad,

“running after my list is not one of the things that I wrote on my list of things to do!”
Frog ran after the list.
He ran over hills and swamps,
but the list blew on and on.
At last Frog came back to Toad.
"I am sorry," gasped Frog,
"but I could not catch your list."
"Blah," said Toad.
"I cannot remember any of the things that were on my list of things to do. I will just have to sit here and do nothing," said Toad.

Toad sat and did nothing.

Frog sat with him.

After a long time Frog said,

"Toad, it is getting dark. We should be going to sleep now."
“Go to sleep!” shouted Toad.

“That was the last thing on my list!”

Toad wrote on the ground with a stick: Go to sleep

Then he crossed out:

Go to sleep

“There,” said Toad.

“Now my day is all crossed out!”

“I am glad,” said Frog.

Then Frog and Toad went right to sleep.
Frog was in his garden.
Toad came walking by.
“What a fine garden you have, Frog,” he said.
“Yes,” said Frog. “It is very nice, but it was hard work.”
“I wish I had a garden,” said Toad.
“Here are some flower seeds. Plant them in the ground,” said Frog,
“and soon you will have a garden.”

“How soon?” asked Toad.

“Quite soon,” said Frog.
Toad ran home.

He planted the flower seeds.

“Now seeds,” said Toad,

“start growing.”

Toad walked up and down a few times.

The seeds did not start to grow.
Toad put his head close to the ground and said loudly, "Now seeds, start growing!"

Toad looked at the ground again. The seeds did not start to grow.
Toad put his head very close to the ground and shouted, "NOW SEEDS, START GROWING!"

Frog came running up the path.

“What is all this noise?” he asked.

“My seeds will not grow,” said Toad.

“You are shouting too much,” said Frog. “These poor seeds are afraid to grow.”

“My seeds are afraid to grow?” asked Toad.
"Of course," said Frog.

"Leave them alone for a few days. Let the sun shine on them, let the rain fall on them. Soon your seeds will start to grow."
That night
Toad looked out of his window.
"Drat!" said Toad.
"My seeds have not started to grow.
They must be afraid of the dark."
Toad went out to his garden with some candles.
"I will read the seeds a story," said Toad.
"Then they will not be afraid."
Toad read a long story to his seeds.
All the next day
Toad sang songs
to his seeds.

And all the next day
Toad read poems
to his seeds.

And all the next day
Toad played music
for his seeds.
Toad looked at the ground. The seeds still did not start to grow.

“What shall I do?” cried Toad. “These must be the most frightened seeds in the whole world!”

Then Toad felt very tired, and he fell asleep.
"Toad, Toad, wake up," said Frog.

"Look at your garden!"

Toad looked at his garden.

Little green plants were coming up out of the ground.
“At last,” shouted Toad, “my seeds have stopped being afraid to grow!”

“And now you will have a nice garden too,” said Frog.

“Yes,” said Toad, “but you were right, Frog. It was very hard work.”
Toad baked some cookies.

“These cookies smell very good,” said Toad.

He ate one.

“And they taste even better,” he said. Toad ran to Frog’s house.

“Frog, Frog,” cried Toad, “taste these cookies that I have made.”
Frog ate one of the cookies.

"These are the best cookies I have ever eaten!" said Frog.
Frog and Toad ate many cookies, one after another.

“You know, Toad,” said Frog, with his mouth full,

“I think we should stop eating. We will soon be sick.”
“You are right,” said Toad.

“Let us eat one last cookie, and then we will stop.”

Frog and Toad ate one last cookie. There were many cookies left in the bowl.

“Frog,” said Toad, “let us eat one very last cookie, and then we will stop.”

Frog and Toad ate one very last cookie.
“We must stop eating!” cried Toad as he ate another.

“Yes,” said Frog, reaching for a cookie, “we need will power.”

“What is will power?” asked Toad.
"Will power is trying hard \textit{not} to do something that you really want to do," said Frog.

"You mean like trying \textit{not} to eat all of these cookies?" asked Toad.

"Right," said Frog.
Frog put the cookies in a box.

“There,” he said.

“Now we will not eat any more cookies.”

“But we can open the box,” said Toad.

“That is true,” said Frog.
Frog tied some string around the box.

“There,” he said.

“Now we will not eat any more cookies.”

“But we can cut the string and open the box,” said Toad.

“That is true,” said Frog.
Frog got a ladder.

He put the box up on a high shelf.

"There," said Frog.

"Now we will not eat any more cookies."
"But we can climb the ladder and take the box down from the shelf and cut the string and open the box," said Toad.

"That is true," said Frog. Frog climbed the ladder and took the box down from the shelf. He cut the string and opened the box.
Frog took the box outside.
He shouted in a loud voice,
“HEY BIRDS,
HERE ARE COOKIES!”
Birds came from everywhere.
They picked up all the cookies in their beaks and flew away.
“Now we have no more cookies to eat,” said Toad sadly.
“Not even one.”
“Yes,” said Frog,  
“but we have lots and lots of will power.” 
“You may keep it all, Frog,” said Toad. 
“I am going home now to bake a cake.”
Dragons and Giants

Frog and Toad
were reading a book together.
“The people in this book
are brave,” said Toad.
“They fight dragons and giants,
and they are never afraid.”
“I wonder if we are brave,”
said Frog.
Frog and Toad looked into a mirror.
"We look brave," said Frog.

"Yes, but are we?"

asked Toad.
Frog and Toad went outside.

"We can try to climb this mountain," said Frog. "That should tell us if we are brave."

Frog went leaping over rocks, and Toad came puffing up behind him.
They came to a dark cave.
A big snake came out of the cave.
"Hello lunch," said the snake when he saw Frog and Toad.
He opened his wide mouth.
Frog and Toad jumped away.
Toad was shaking.
"I am not afraid!" he cried.
They climbed higher,
and they heard a loud noise.
Many large stones
were rolling down the mountain.
"It’s an avalanche!" cried Toad.
Frog and Toad jumped away.
Frog was trembling.

"I am not afraid!" he shouted.
They came to the top of the mountain.
The shadow of a hawk fell over them.
Frog and Toad jumped under a rock.
The hawk flew away.
“We are not afraid!” screamed Frog and Toad at the same time.

Then they ran down the mountain very fast.

They ran past the place where they saw the avalanche.

They ran past the place where they saw the snake.

They ran all the way to Toad’s house.
“Frog, I am glad to have a brave friend like you,” said Toad. He jumped into the bed and pulled the covers over his head.

“And I am happy to know a brave person like you, Toad,” said Frog. He jumped into the closet and shut the door.

Toad stayed in the bed, and Frog stayed in the closet.
They stayed there
for a long time,
just feeling very brave together.
Toad was asleep,
and he was having a dream.
He was on a stage,
and he was wearing
a costume.
Toad looked out
into the dark.
Frog was sitting
in the theater.
A strange voice from far away said,

"PRESENTING THE GREATEST TOAD

IN ALL THE WORLD!"
Toad took a deep bow.

Frog looked smaller as he shouted,

"Hooray for Toad!"

"TOAD WILL NOW PLAY THE PIANO VERY WELL,"
said the strange voice.
Toad played the piano,
and he did not miss a note.
“Frog,” cried Toad,
“can you play the piano like this?”
“No,” said Frog.
It seemed to Toad
that Frog looked even smaller.
"TOAD WILL NOW WALK
ON A HIGH WIRE,
AND HE WILL NOT FALL DOWN,"
said the voice.
Toad walked on the high wire.

"Frog," cried Toad,

"can you do tricks like this?"

"No," peeped Frog,
who looked very, very small.
"TOAD WILL NOW DANCE,
AND HE WILL BE WONDERFUL,"
said the voice.
"Frog, can you be as wonderful as this?" said Toad as he danced all over the stage. There was no answer. Toad looked out into the theater. Frog was so small that he could not be seen or heard. "Frog," said Toad, "where are you?" There was still no answer. "Frog, what have I done?" cried Toad.
Then the voice said,

"THE GREATEST TOAD WILL NOW..."

"Shut up!" screamed Toad.

"Frog, Frog, where have you gone?"

Toad was spinning in the dark.

"Come back, Frog," he shouted.

"I will be lonely!"
"I am right here," said Frog.
Frog was standing near Toad’s bed.
"Wake up, Toad," he said.
"Frog, is that really you?" said Toad.
"Of course it is me," said Frog.
"And are you your own right size?" asked Toad.
“Yes, I think so,” said Frog. Toad looked at the sunshine coming through the window.

“Frog,” he said,

“I am so glad that you came over.”

“I always do,” said Frog.
Then Frog and Toad
ate a big breakfast.
And after that
they spent a fine, long day together.
Frog likes the chocolate chip cookies that Toad bakes. Toad likes the flowers that Frog grows. Frog has a best friend. So does Toad. Can you guess who their best friends are?