

Friends Come in All Shapes and Sizes

Dear Church Folks,

Today I'd like to tell you some more about our big adventure to Adams Pond. After we spent the night in Mrs. Fluff's rabbit hole, we got up early and had breakfast and got ready for the next part of our trip.

We had to cross a great big field and we got to make a bunch of new friends. We met some field mice and some song birds and some butterflies and some grasshoppers. Everyone was really friendly and nice to us. We invited them all to come see us at the church sometime. Maybe they could even come to one of our suppers.

We went up to a big white house and Grandpa Mouse said one of the church folks lived there and he would help us cross Big Road. Grandpa went up to the door and scratched on it then he ran back to where we were hiding in the garden because he said he smelled a cat. A man came out of the house and scootched down by the bush we were under and said hello to us. Then, he told us that when we crossed the road we needed to be quick as a bunny so we wouldn't get hurt. He looked both ways for us then he told us it was safe to cross. He was nice even if he did let a cat live with him.

Then, we scurried the rest of the way to our friend Peg's boat house. We were all really excited to get there after such a long journey. Timothy and Sebastian and I couldn't decide what to do first. We wanted to go swimming and build a raft and hunt for mushrooms all at once. Finally, we decided we would go swimming first.

Timothy and Sebastian ran right up on a rock and jumped in the water. I decided I would dip my paw in first and see how cold the water was. I was right on the edge of the water and I heard a strange sound. Something in the bushes said, "Gaah-roomp." I never heard anything before that said, "Gaah-roomp" so I looked over at Grandpa Mouse. He smiled and said, "I know that voice!" Then, he came over and looked under some reeds and the strangest looking creature came out and looked at us. Grandpa said the creature was a frog and Gaah-roomp was his name. Grandpa knew him from when he was in the Mouse Guard.

I never knew anyone who looked like *Gaah-roomp* before. He has big eyes and he catches bugs with his tongue which I think is kind of disgusting. He also hops really high and can swim really good, too. Timothy and Sebastian and I really didn't know what to think of him. He was just so different from all the other creatures we know. We didn't know if we would like him or not.

We watched him talking to Grandpa like they were old friends and he seemed really nice. Then, we started asking him questions about what it was like to be a frog. He told us all about how he likes to float in the water and jump and swim. That's all stuff that we like to do, too. After we talked to him for awhile we decided he was really nice. He asked us if we wanted to go swimming with him. Boy, did we! He taught us how to dive under the water. Then, he did something really cool. He took each of us for a ride on his back. He sure is a good swimmer. We got to go really fast and we all had such a great time.

That night, we asked *Gaah-roomp* to have supper with us. We all sat around the campfire and sang songs. *Gaah-roomp* sang along with us. He taught us a song called *Froggie Went a'Courtin'* which is a neat song because it has a frog and a mouse in it. Sebastian and Timothy and I liked having *Gaah-roomp* share our campfire because he's lots of fun and he doesn't like marshmallows and he sure can keep the bugs away!

Grandpa Mouse told us that creatures come in all shapes and sizes and colors and some of them look different than we expect and they have different ways of living. But, he said, you have to give everyone a chance because if you don't you miss out on some wonderful friends. I sure wouldn't have wanted to miss out on getting to know *Gaah-roomp*. We all had so much fun playing with him.

Well, that's it for this week. You'll see me soon but not if I see you first.
Your friend,
Perley