

## THE SECOND BALLOON – THE CYCLE STORY

In **RRRA-AH** by Eros Keith (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Bradbury Press, 1969), a young toad is caught. Three children capture him in the clover beside the pond where he was born. They take him home and keep him overnight in a match box. The next morning the children want to play games. The game he wants to play is called “escape.”

They all crash through the house and capture him again. The next day he escapes again. When he lands in the kitchen in a bowl of icing, Mother says, “That frog has got to go!” The children reluctantly take him back to the pond where again he sticks his nose in pink clover, closes his eyes, and takes a deep breath.

**YOUR TURN:** Have children take a creature out of its world into theirs. Have the creature try to escape and finally do something **BAD** that makes the children glad to take him back to his own place in God’s world where he is happy once more.

Peter may have the captain’s daughter to marry if he can dance around the world in five years. **PETER PENNY’S DANCE** by Janet Quin-Harkin (New York: Dial Press, 1976) dances Peter out of London, through France, Spain, Africa, India, China, Hawaii, the USA, and back again to London.

He arrives home in time to wed the girl.

**YOUR TURN:** Someone can have a prize if he sails, balloons, drives, swims, or begs rides around the world. Give your character a challenge in order to get the reward. Take him/her around your town or your county or state or country or another country if not the world. Maybe he visits missionaries on their fields and returns home to tell a big convention.

**FREE LUNCH** by J. Otto Seibold and Vivian Walsh. (New York: Penguin Books USA, Inc., 1996.)

LofC (Library of Congress) summary: When a bad elephant takes over a bird seed company, Mr. Lunch tries to find a

better source of food for his feathered friends.

Letting the cut-and-paste-like pictures tell part of the story, the authors present a dog, Mr. Lunch, who feeds birds with seeds he buys.

When his supplier sends rocks instead of seeds, Mr. Lunch finds a farm supplier.

His original supplier has him jailed under a leash law.

He escapes into a ruby mine and finds the good elephant who was his original supplier.

Mr. Lunch escapes from there and finds the judge (an owl) who sent him and the good elephant to jail.

She deals justice and Mr. Lunch returns to his original job of feeding birds.

**YOUR TURN:** Whew! Wasn’t that outrageous! The one who tricks you gets to punish you. With an escape and an appeal to the judge who punished you, you get to go back to doing what you were doing in the first place. Try that in a story you do.

Verna Aardema in **WHY MOSQUITOES BUZZ IN PEOPLES’ EARS** (New York: Dial Press, 1975) has a mosquito that tells an iguana a whopping lie: “I saw a farmer digging yams that were almost as big as I am.”

She triggers a flight of animals that ends when a morning owl refuses to call for the sunrise. The king of beasts calls the animals back one by one in reverse order to find the ultimate culprit.

We end with the mosquito (cycle completed) who learns her lesson. She stops telling lies and turns instead to complaining in peoples’ ears.

**YOUR TURN:** This uses the cumulative method, too (chapter 9). Start a panic when one creature tells another a big lie that causes a lot of people a LOT of trouble. Have someone work back through the lies to find the first liar who learns it is wrong to lie.

**LIZA LOU AND THE YELLER BELLY SWAMP** (New York: Parents’