

Tiddalik the Frog

Part two



There was no water anywhere and the land had become a desert: all was dry and dusty, the grass faded, the plants wilted.

‘The animals are so thirsty!’ said Kangaroo.

‘All because of Tiddalik!’ said Koala.

‘What are we going to do?’ sighed Kookaburra.



‘I have an idea,’ said Koala. ‘Let’s go to see Wombat!’

Wombat was a wise old creature, who they found lying in the shade of a tree in the forest.

‘I have heard what Tiddalik has done,’ said Wombat.



‘But what we can do?’ asked Kookaburra.

‘Well, now... If we’re to get the water back, we’ll need get it out of Tiddalik’s belly,’ said Wombat.

‘But how can we do that?!’ asked Koala.



‘All very good ideas,’ said Wombat. ‘Now we just need to send Tiddalik an invitation.’

The Funny Show was planned for that very evening, to be held by the dried-up stream where Tiddalik lived.

‘Well...by making him laugh!’ replied Wombat. ‘Here’s what we’ll do. We’ll put on a show for him - a Funny Show! Yes! We’ll make Tiddalik laugh. We’ll make him laugh so much all the water in his belly will come rushing back out again!’

‘What’s this?’ croaked Tiddalik, when he received his invitation.



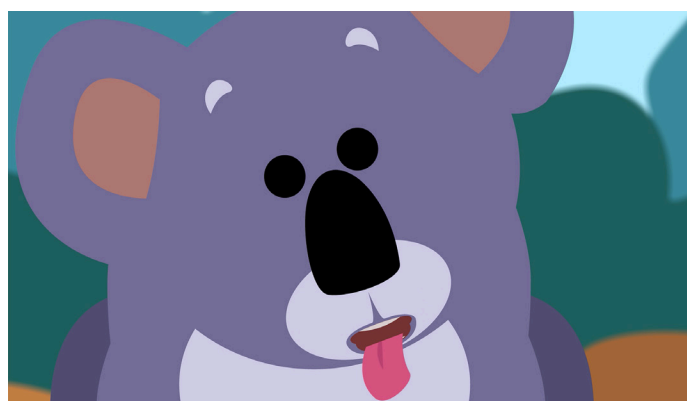
‘I’ll tell Tiddalik one of my jokes!’ said Kookaburra, getting excited.

‘Why am I being invited to a funny show? I don’t find anything funny! But I’m bored. I suppose I may as well go.’

‘I’ll challenge him to a boxing match!’ said Kangaroo.

It was time for the show to begin.

‘And I’ll make Tiddalik laugh by pulling my funny faces!’ said Koala.



‘Gather round, everyone!’ cried Wombat. ‘Welcome to the Funny Show!’



First to perform was Kookaburra with her joke. 'Where do frogs keep their lunch boxes in school?' she asked.

'I don't know. Where?'

'In the croak room!' cried Kookaburra...and started laughing.

'Not funny!' said Tiddalik. 'Next!'

Second was Kangaroo. 'I challenge you to a boxing match! The winner gets a bottle of water as a prize!'



'Boring!' said Tiddalik. 'Next!'

Then it was Koala's turn. The little animal squeezed his furry face into all kinds of funny expressions - but none of them made Tiddalik laugh.

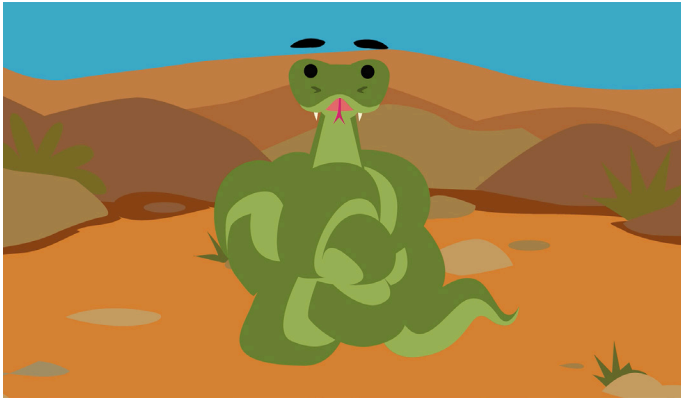
'Is that it?' Tiddalik croaked. 'Is that the best you can do?'



'Let meeeeeee have a go,' came a hissing voice. It was Snake. 'I will dance for Tiddalik,' she hissed.

Snake whirled and twirled, she twisted and turned - but still Tiddalik didn't laugh.

Faster and faster Snake twirled, twisted and turned - until she danced so fast that she twisted herself into a great, big knot.



‘Thisssss will never do! ‘Asissst...
ancccccce pleassssse...’

Kookaburra, Kangaroo and Koala
were just about to untie Snake
when they heard a great rumbling
sound...

It was coming from Tiddalik. His
enormous belly was shaking! His
great big mouth was opening!

‘Snake...tied in a knot! I’ve never
seen anything so... Ha ha ha, ho
ho ho!’

Tiddalik was laughing!



And then came the water! Out of
Tiddalik’s mouth it all poured...
the stream...the river...and the
billabong! Out it all poured in a
great gush and back to where it
belonged!

‘Hurrah!’ cried the animals as the
land came back to life.



‘Oh my, that was funny!’ laughed
Tiddalik. ‘I haven’t enjoyed
myself so much for years. Why,
I’ve enjoyed myself so much, I
promise you, I shall never drink
all the water ever again!’