

**FOCUS
ON** **Reading
Strategies**



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Unit 3: Sequence Events

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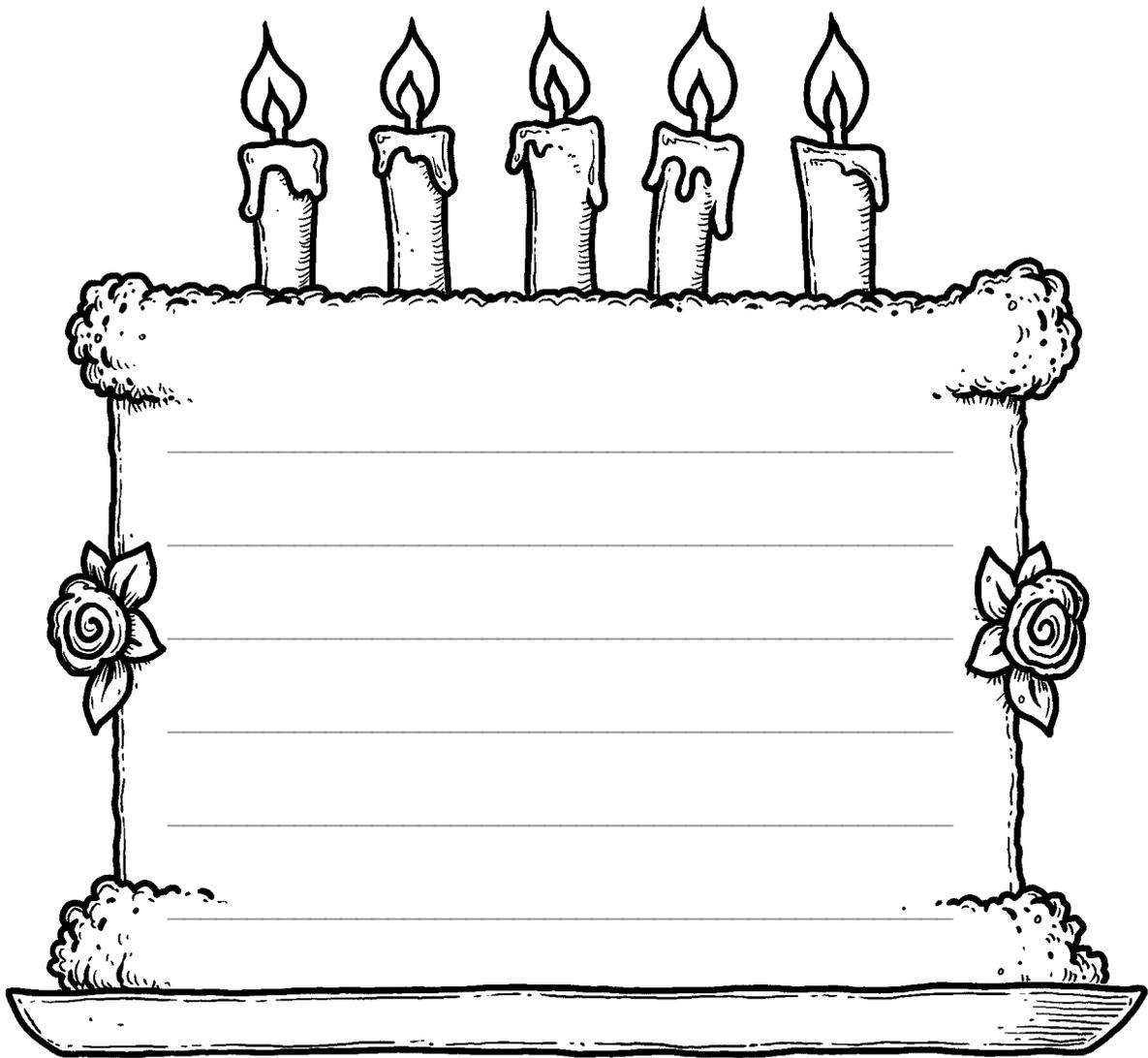
THE HAT

from Days with Frog and Toad

• *Short Story*

Heads Up When you sequence events, you put them in the order they happened. You do this when you retell a story. It is important to keep the events in order. If you don't, the story won't make sense.

This story is about what happens on Toad's birthday. Think about your last birthday. What did you do? Write what you did on the next page. Sequence the events, or put them in the correct order.



Good readers think while they read. One way of thinking while you read is to *ask yourself questions*. As you read “The Hat,” you will notice Think-Along Questions. Stop and answer these questions. Then read on. You may add questions of your own. Also, as you read, circle or highlight words you don’t know.



THE HAT

from Days with Frog and Toad
by Arnold Lobel

1 On Toad's birthday Frog gave him a hat. Toad was delighted.

2 "Happy birthday," said Frog.

3 Toad put on the hat. It fell down over his eyes.

4 "I am sorry," said Frog. "That hat is much too big for you. I will give you something else."

5 "No," said Toad. "This hat is your present to me. I like it. I will wear it the way it is."

What do you think will happen next?

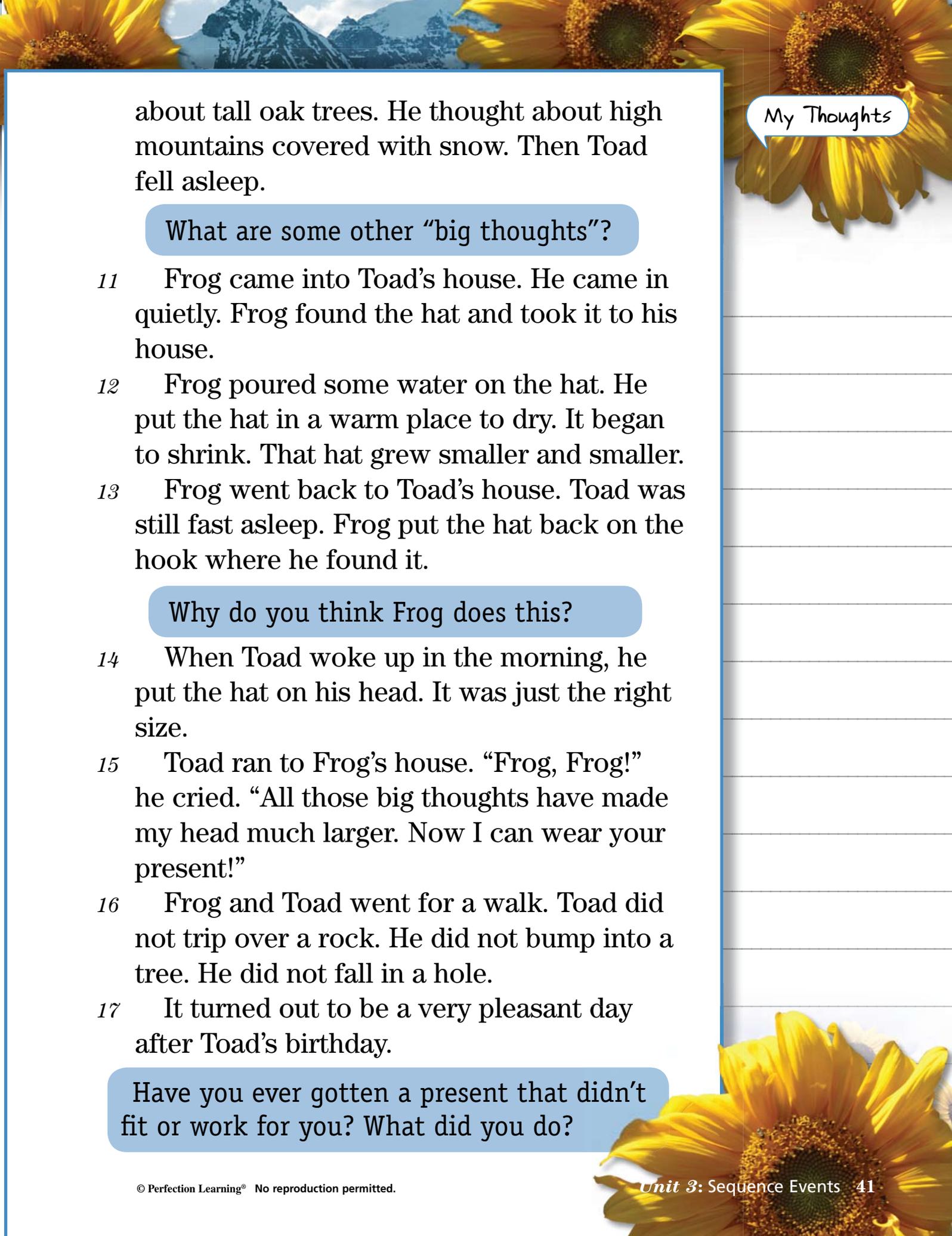
6 Frog and Toad went for a walk. Toad tripped over a rock. He bumped into a tree. He fell in a hole.

7 "Frog," said Toad, "I can't see anything. I will not be able to wear your beautiful present. This is a sad birthday for me."

8 Frog and Toad were sad for a while. Then Frog said, "Toad, here is what you must do. Tonight when you go to bed you must think some very **big** thoughts. Those big thoughts will make your head grow larger. In the morning your new hat may fit."

9 "What a good idea," said Toad.

10 That night when Toad went to bed he thought the biggest thoughts that he could think. Toad thought about giant sunflowers. He thought



about tall oak trees. He thought about high mountains covered with snow. Then Toad fell asleep.

My Thoughts

What are some other “big thoughts”?

11 Frog came into Toad’s house. He came in quietly. Frog found the hat and took it to his house.

12 Frog poured some water on the hat. He put the hat in a warm place to dry. It began to shrink. That hat grew smaller and smaller.

13 Frog went back to Toad’s house. Toad was still fast asleep. Frog put the hat back on the hook where he found it.

Why do you think Frog does this?

14 When Toad woke up in the morning, he put the hat on his head. It was just the right size.

15 Toad ran to Frog’s house. “Frog, Frog!” he cried. “All those big thoughts have made my head much larger. Now I can wear your present!”

16 Frog and Toad went for a walk. Toad did not trip over a rock. He did not bump into a tree. He did not fall in a hole.

17 It turned out to be a very pleasant day after Toad’s birthday.

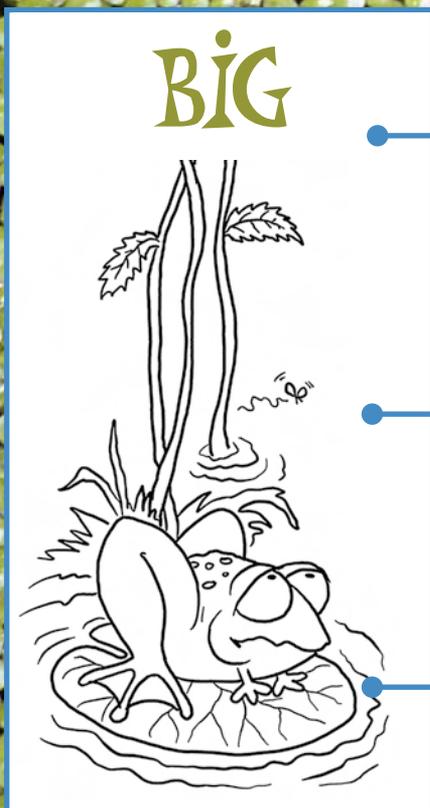
Have you ever gotten a present that didn’t fit or work for you? What did you do?

Make Sense of Words

When you come to a word you don't know, you can try to understand the meaning by:

- using picture clues.
- rereading the sentence and using the *context clues*. These are the other words in the sentence and the paragraph.
- breaking the word into parts. Sometimes you will find one or more words you know within a word.
- using the dictionary or asking an adult.

1. A *synonym* is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. In this story, Frog tells Toad to go to bed and think **big** thoughts. The author uses three synonyms for **big**. Find them and record them below.



BIG

SYNONYM 1

SYNONYM 2

SYNONYM 3

Read with Understanding Which of the following events in the story happened *first*?

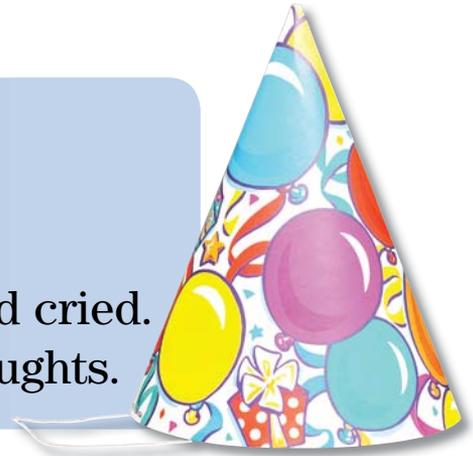
- Ⓐ Frog poured water on the hat.
- Ⓑ Toad thought the biggest thoughts he could think.
- Ⓒ Toad bumped into a tree.
- Ⓓ Frog gave Toad a hat for his birthday.



Understand by Seeing It

Read through the events below. Then fill in the chart by writing each event in the correct order.

The hat fell down over Toad's eyes.
Toad did not fall in a hole.
The hat began to shrink.
"Now I can wear your present!" Toad cried.
Frog told Toad to think very big thoughts.



1.

2.

3.

4.

5.
