

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



By Thornton W. Burgess

LITTLE TOAD MEETS HIS FATHER

Life is lived just day by day. He lives it best who lives that way. —Old Mr. Toad.

Little Toad had come all the way from the Smiling Pool across the Green Meadows to Farmer Brown's garden. It was a long, long journey for such a small person as Little Toad. It had taken him a long time to get there, and he had had many adventures. But with every adventure he had learned something. By the time he reached that garden he was a much wiser young toad, and much better prepared to find a place for himself in the Great World.



"Well, young fellow, where did you come from?" said Old Mr. Toad.

It took him a long time to go all over that garden. At first he was content to spend his days under cabbage and other big leaves where the sun could not reach him. Sometimes he dug himself down in the ground just enough for the earth to cover him. Of course that is an old toad trick. No one had taught it to him; he had done it without really knowing just what he was doing and why.

Finally, just at daybreak when he was ready to retire for the day, he came to a corner of the garden

he had not visited before. That corner was shady. At the very edge of the garden was a wide board. Each end rested on a stone so that the board was raised slightly above the ground. Little Toad's small bright eyes sparkled when he saw it. What a place for a home! He hopped a little nearer to that board. He leaned forward to try to peep under that board and suddenly was aware that he was looking right into a pair of staring eyes that seemed to be looking

right through him. He drew back hurriedly. Those staring eyes moved toward him. Just below those staring eyes was a big mouth. It seemed to Little Toad that that was the biggest mouth he had ever seen. He turned and started to hop away. He was afraid. Yes, sir, Little Toad was afraid.

"Don't go," said a voice, and the owner of those staring eyes and that big mouth came out from under that board.

Those eyes were no longer staring. They were lovely eyes. They were golden eyes. Some day Little Toad would have eyes just like them. It was Little Toad who was staring now. He was staring at Old Mr. Toad, and Old Mr. Toad was his father, though neither of them knew it. It would have made no difference if they had known.

"I wonder if I'll ever look like that," thought Little Toad, and he hoped he wouldn't. Old Mr. Toad was a little bit humpedbacked; his mouth was so big that it was as wide as his head; those lovely golden eyes were on top of his head; he was slightly bowlegged and his toes turned in. He was homely. It seemed to Little Toad that this big Toad was the homeliest person he had ever seen.

"Well, young fellow, where did you come from?" said Old Mr. Toad.

"I don't know," said Little Toad in a small voice. "I just came from somewhere, but I don't know where."

Old Mr. Toad chuckled. It was a throaty sort of chuckle. Suddenly he leaned forward and there was a flash of pink from his mouth.

Then he settled back again and swallowed. "Flies are very good eating," said he. "Never let a fly get away if he is within reach of your tongue. What did you say you are doing up here in this garden?"

"If you please, I didn't say," replied Little Toad in a small voice. "I had thought I might live here. You see, I didn't know you are living here."

"What difference does that make?" asked Old Mr. Toad gruffly.

"Do you mean you are willing that I should stay here?" asked Little Toad anxiously.

"Certainly," replied Old Mr. Toad. "The more toads there are here the better. But you'll have to work. This is no place for a lazy toad."

"I'll work!" cried Little Toad. "I'll work. What will I have to do?"

"Just eat," replied his father. "Just eat," he chuckled.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

THE INTERCEPTED MESSAGE
East's announcement of club strength in the following deal was far more interesting to the declarer than to East's own partner!

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

♠ K 6 3
♥ A Q 5
♦ J 4 2
♣ K 5 3

♠ Q J 9 7
♥ 10 4 3
♦ K Q 8
♣ Q 4

N
E
S
W

♠ A 2
♥ K J 9 8 6 2
♦ A 7 3
♣ J 5

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North probably bid two diamonds on the first round to "build the hand up" for a notrump contract — then changed his mind (or lost his nerve) and decided that he had better support South's hearts. Strangely enough, three notrump would have been ironclad, whether played from the North or the South position, whereas the four-heart contract required help from the enemy, notably East.

West, who might have opened a diamond except for North's bid, led the spade queen. South won and took out West's trump. East seized the opportunity to signal vigorously with the seven and deuce of clubs, and South, who knew his right-hand opponent to be an "honest" player, made a private decision not to lead up to the club king if he could avoid it.

Declarer cashed dummy's spade king and ruffed the spade six, then led one more trump. West discarded a diamond, dummy a club, and East a spade. Declarer now led a low diamond toward the jack. West put up the queen and exited with a spade, but his safety was not lived. Declarer ruffed, cashed the diamond ace, and then led his last diamond. West, back on lead now could only return a club and when he led the four-spot declarer ducked in dummy. As he had hoped from East's signal, the ace had to be played at this point, and the club king became the fulfilling trick.

East should have made only neutral plays throughout and should have left declarer to his own device. It is not at all unlikely that had he done so, South would have tried the straight-forward play of a club to the king in the hope that the ace was on-side.

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

Panel 1: "YOU CAN SHOOT BUT ONE OF US... THEN YOU DIE!"
Panel 2: "THIS IS NO FLINT-LOCK! IF YOU'RE SMART YOU'LL DROP THOSE ANTIQUES!"
Panel 3: "TALK FRIGHTEN'S US NOT! SHOOT HIM, CONSTABLE!"
Panel 4: "OH!"

JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher

Panel 1: "YOU'LL HAVE TO COME ALONG, JOE."
Panel 2: "I'LL FOLLOW YOU IN MY CAR."
Panel 3: "WELL? HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS ONE?"
Panel 4: "UH... I NEEDED DOUGH FOR ME LATE LAMENTUD FIGHTER... THIS GUY HIPPI IS A LOAN SHARK..."
Panel 5: "ETC., ETC., ETC... I WAS POORLY INNA-SANT AS YA KIN SEE."
Panel 6: "I GUESS YOU WERE FOR ONCE... WELL... HERE'S THE POLICE STATION. COME ON."

HENRY

By Carl Anderson

Panel 1: "GR-R"
Panel 2: "THE DOG IS MAN'S BEST FRIEND!"
Panel 3: "PEP!"

DOTTY DRIPPLE

By Ruford

Panel 1: "HORACE, I'M EXPECTING A GROUP OF LADIES THIS AFTERNOON--AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO USE THE GUEST TOWELS!"
Panel 2: "OKAY!"
Panel 3: "SAY DOTTY, WHAT ARE THOSE WOMEN, ANYWAY--MIDGETS?"

TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwin

Panel 1: "GRAN'MA'S RIGHT! TIME IS MONEY!!"
Panel 2: "OH, I'LL COME RIGHT DOWN TODAY..."
Panel 3: "MISS BROWN SAYS THAT BOOK I'VE BEEN WANTIN' IS IN 'TIL' LIBRARY NOW..."
Panel 4: "I'M GLAD I SENT CAP BACK WITH THAT OTHER 'N'--NO SENSE PAYIN' FOR IT, WHEN..."
Panel 5: "BUT YOU GOTTA GIMME BACK GRAN'MA'S BOOK!! SHE OWES A QUARTER ALREADY! GEE! I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT YOU WHEN I THREW IT!!"

BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus

Panel 1: "COME BACK HERE! AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS?"
Panel 2: "IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS--NOBODY BUT AN IDIOT WOULD GO OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!"
Panel 3: "NO!"
Panel 4: "ALL RIGHT--DON'T HOLLER SO LOUD! SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!"
Panel 5: "THERE'S AN IDIOT--I HEAR--YOUR BROTHER BILLY IS HERE TO SEE YOU--"

TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson

Panel 1: "SOME LADIES TO SEE YOU, MR. BRINKLEY!"
Panel 2: "WELL, WILL MRS. CRUM AND MRS. DUVAL."
Panel 3: "CONGRATULATIONS! YOUR WIFE WAS JUST ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE BAINTY (BANKS)!"
Panel 4: "I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HAPPY I AM TO HEAR THAT!"
Panel 5: "HEH! HEH! NOW I CAN FIRE THAT NO-GOOD, LAZY 'BANKS' REGGS VAN SNUIT!"
Panel 6: "MR. BRINKLEY SEEMED SO PLEASED TO HEAR OF MRS. CRUM'S VICTORY!"
Panel 7: "MY YES! I'VE GOT A DELIGHT TO SEE A HUSBAND WHO TAKES AN INTEREST IN HIS WIFE'S SOCIAL AFFAIRS!"

PENNY

By Henry Moonigan

Panel 1: "HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT FOR YOUR BIKE, PENNY?"
Panel 2: "FORTY DOLLARS, JENNIFER."
Panel 3: "Y'VES! WELL, GO LONG!"
Panel 4: "SO LONG."
Panel 5: "I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO ASK 25 DOLLARS FOR YOUR BIKE, DEAR."
Panel 6: "I WAS, MOTHER..."
Panel 7: "BUT I WAS AFRAID SHE MIGHT HAVE 25 DOLLARS!"

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U.K. Trawler Fined For Red Zone Fishing

MOSCOW, May 28—(Reuters) — Russia told the British Embassy here that the British trawler, Valafell, had been impounded for fishing inside Soviet territorial waters.

In a note in reply to a query last week concerning the Valafell, the Russian government said the 380-ton vessel would be released on payment of a 300-ruble (about \$75) fine.

POGO

By Clifford McBride

Panel 1: "AS YO' MILITARY AIR POGO, I COUGHTA LOOK AT YO' CABINET AN' SEE GONE BE IN 'TIL 'TIS."
Panel 2: "WE IS!"
Panel 3: "I GOT A GREAT!"
Panel 4: "I'LL JUST PULL THE COOP AN' THE CHARGE WILL BLOW THE..."
Panel 5: "STOP! DO YOU WANTA MESSIN' US ALL BY FRIN' THAT THING INDOOR?"

IL ABNER

By Al Capp

Panel 1: "LOOKS BAD! CENTVILLE HAS TWO OUTS, BUT THIS BOY IS THEIR BEST BATTER!"
Panel 2: "AND A MAN ON THIRD! NOT A CHANCE OF BERRYPALE WINNING NOW! ONE POINT AHEAD WINT BROUGH!"
Panel 3: "IT'S A HOME, FOR SURE!"
Panel 4: "AN' THAT OL' BEAR RUS IS ALL YOU'VE GOT FOR A WILDER!"
Panel 5: "SIC 'EM, PIP!"

RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond

Panel 1: "HA! HA! (C) CAN SEE THE HEADLINES!! 'HOOGLIGHT KING, CHESS NER, MARRIES DINE-A-DANCE MISTRESS'-- THAT'LL SHOW THE WORLD I'M NO SNOBB!-- HOW MUCH LOWER CAN I SINK??!"
Panel 2: "WELL, PROVE DESERTION--AND YOU'LL BE RID OF HIM!-- ONLY WAY WE COULD DO IT MORE EASILY--"
Panel 3: "WOULD BE IF HE DROPPED DEAD!"
Panel 4: "CRASH!!"

CLIPPING

By Alex Raymond

Panel 1: "I TOLD YOU WHO I WAS--YOUR NEW PARTNER! NAME'S THE MANGLE!"
Panel 2: "CUT THE CLOWNING, MISTER-- I'M NOT LOOKIN' FOR PARTNERS! JUST WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?"
Panel 3: "ON THE MANGLE, BY WILL, I DON'T CARE BABY! YOU'RE NOT NOVIN' IN ON ME!"
Panel 4: "GUTTER, YOU AN'T NO PARTNER! YOU DON'T CATCH ON QUICK!"