Thistledown Lane

Pip and the Frogspawn: Reading Comprehension

KS1 · Year 1 and Year 2

Free · with answers



- Year 1: a short retelling and 6 questions
- Year 2: the whole story and 9 questions, with reading domains
- Answers for both, and a mark scheme for Year 2

Watch the episode free at **thistledownlane.co.uk/episode-pip-and-the-frogspawn**

A gentle claymation series about kindness, friendship and the seasons on an English country lane.

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For grown-ups

How to use this pack

Two levels from the same story. **Year 1** is a short retelling with picture-friendly questions: tick, order and true or false. **Year 2** is the whole story as told in the episode, with questions tagged by KS1 reading content domain (1a to 1e) and a mark scheme. You can watch the episode together first, read it aloud, or use it as an independent reading task.

KS1 reading content domains

- **1a** draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts
- **1b** identify and explain key aspects of texts, such as characters, events and information
- **1c** identify and explain the sequence of events in texts
- **1d** make inferences from the text
- **1e** predict what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far

The story

The pond is full of wobbly jelly blobs. Pip watches them turn into tadpoles, then into tiny frogs.

The lesson

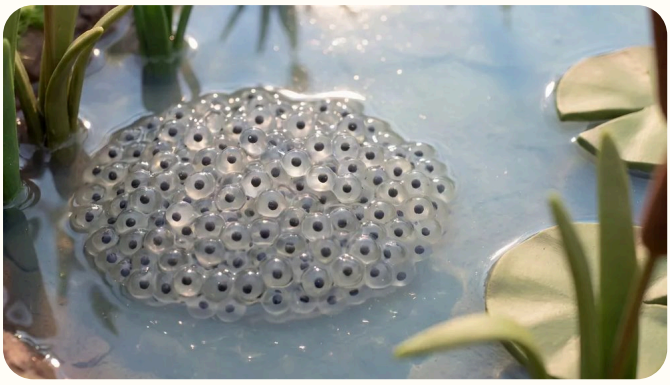
It's alright to change. You're still you.

Curriculum links

English, Year 1 and Year 2 reading comprehension: listening to and discussing stories, discussing word meanings, predicting, making inferences and checking the text makes sense. PSHE: change, growing up, patience, caring for nature.

Year 1: Pip and the Frogspawn

Name: _____





Pip is a little rabbit. One spring morning, she took Moss and Bramble to the pond. In the water were lots of little round blobs, like jelly. Every blob had a tiny black dot.

“I think they’re broken,” said Pip. Old Wren came to look. “That’s frogspawn,” he said. “Every little black dot is a baby frog.” No touching and no taking. The pond is their home.

The dots were so tiny. So Moss found Pip a drop of clear glass at his Swap Shop. It made everything look big! Pip swapped her carrot-top for it.

Pip went to the pond every day. She never touched. She only watched. Then the eggs hatched! There were lots of tiny black tadpoles, with wiggly tails.

“Everybody changes as they grow,” said Old Wren. “I’ve changed too! But I’m still me,” said Pip.

The tadpoles grew back legs, then front legs. Their tails got shorter and shorter. Then they were tiny froglets! Plip, plop, into the pond they hopped.

Year 1 questions

Name: _____

1 What did Pip find in the pond?

☐ frogspawn ☐ fish ☐ a shell

2 Who said, "That's frogspawn"?

☐ Old Wren ☐ Moss ☐ Sorrel

3 What did Pip swap for the glass?

☐ a carrot-top ☐ a feather ☐ a pebble

4 What hatched out of the frogspawn?

☐ ducklings ☐ tadpoles ☐ fish

5 Put these in order. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the boxes.

☐ The tadpoles grew legs.

☐ Pip found frogspawn in the pond.

☐ The eggs hatched into tadpoles.

6 True or false?

Pip is a rabbit. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Pip took the frogspawn home. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

The glass made things look big. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Year 2: Pip and the Frogspawn

Name: _____





It was a bright spring morning on Thistledown Lane. Down at the bottom of the field, the reeds were green, and the pond was all a-sparkle. And on the bank sat Pip, the little rabbit in the yellow striped jumper. She had brought Moss and Bramble to see something. Something very strange. “Look. In the water, by the reeds. What are they?” asked Pip.

In the shallow water there were lots and lots of little round blobs, all stuck together. They were clear, like jelly, and every blob had a tiny black dot in the middle. “Ooh. It’s all wobbly. Like jelly with a raisin in,” said Moss. “I think they’re broken. I think somebody’s spilled them. Should we tidy them up?” asked Pip.

“Let’s not touch them, Pip. Not till we know what they are,” said Bramble. And just then, somebody blinked at them. On the mossy log sat a little green frog, with big golden eyes. The frog looked at Pip. Blink. And blinked again. And then, plop! Into the pond he went.

“Oh! Was that the frog’s jelly? Is the frog cross with us?” asked Pip. “I don’t think frogs get cross. But I know somebody who’ll know what it is,” said Bramble.

So Bramble called, and before long, a little brown bird came fluttering over the field, and landed on a bulrush at the edge of the pond. “Hmm. Calling me down to the pond, are you? What’s all this, then?” asked Old Wren. “Old Wren, there’s broken jelly in the water. We think it’s spilled,” said Pip.

“Broken? Oh, bless you, no! That’s frogspawn. Those are frog’s eggs. And every little black dot is a baby frog, just getting started,” said Old Wren. “Babies? In the jelly?” asked Pip. “Tucked up safe in the jelly, like a blanket. And when they’re ready, they’ll hatch,” said Old Wren.

“Into frogs?” asked Moss. “Ah. Not straight away. You’ll have to keep watching to see. But only watching, mind. No touching, and no taking. The pond is their home,” said Old Wren. “I’d like to watch. But the dots are so tiny. I can hardly see them at all,” said Pip.

Moss twitched his whiskers. He'd had an idea. "I think I've got just the thing. Come up to the shop," said Moss.

"Ding-a-ling! Swap Shop's open!" said Moss. Moss reached right up to the very top shelf, and brought down something small, and round, and shiny. "It's a drop of clear glass. Smooth as a pebble. I found it by the stream. Hold it up and look through it," said Moss.

"Oh! Everything's big! Your whiskers are enormous, Moss!" said Pip. "That's just right for looking at frogspawn," said Bramble. "But what can I swap? I've only got this," said Pip.

And out of her jumper pocket, Pip pulled a carrot-top. Not the carrot. Just the leafy green top, all soft and feathery. "I ate the carrot. But the top was too pretty to throw away," said Pip. "Too pretty, and just right for dusting my shelves! A feather duster that's a carrot. That's a very good swap," said Moss.

So the carrot-top went over the counter, and the little drop of glass came back the other way. "One little hop... and another little hop!" said Pip.

After that, Pip went down to the pond every day, just to look. She never touched. She only watched. And up on the lane, everybody wanted to know. "Is it true? Pip's got a magic glass, and there are babies in the pond?" asked Lilly. "It's not magic. It just makes things look big. And yes. Frog babies. In jelly," said Moss.

"Have they turned into frogs yet?" asked Sorrel. "Patience, young Sorrel. These things take time," said Old Wren. And then, days and days later, Pip came hopping up the lane, as fast as her legs would go. "Come and see! They've hatched! The jelly's gone all wriggly!" said Pip.

Down at the pond, the jelly was nearly all gone. And in its place were lots of tiny black tadpoles, with round heads and wiggly tails, wriggling all over the shallows. “Look through the glass, Bramble. They’re swimming!” said Pip. And there, back on his mossy log, sat the little frog, watching too.

“Old Wren, why don’t the tadpoles look anything like the frog? The frog’s green, and they’re black. The frog’s got legs, and they’ve got tails,” said Pip. “Because that frog used to be a tadpole too. Just like them. Everybody changes as they grow,” said Old Wren. “Even you, little Pip. Not so long ago, you wouldn’t come out of your burrow. And look at you now.”

“I’ve changed too! But I’m still me,” said Pip. And Pip kept on watching. Weeks later, the tadpoles had grown little back legs. Then little front legs. And their tails got shorter, and shorter, and shorter... ...until, on a sunny morning, there were tiny froglets, sitting on a lily pad, blinking in the sun.

“Pip! They look just like the frog now!” said Moss. “One little hop... and another little hop!” said Pip. And the little frog hopped along his log. And all the tiny froglets hopped off their lily pad, plip, plop, into the pond.

“Tadpoles change, and frogs change, and rabbits change, and hedgehogs too. Sometimes you grow legs, and sometimes you grow brave. And that’s alright. However much you change, you’re still you. See you soon!” said Bramble.

And so, at the bottom of the field, the pond was full of tiny frogs. And Pip still had her little drop of glass, ready for whatever was going to change next.





Year 2 questions

Name: _____

1 Where did Moss find the drop of clear glass? (1 mark) 1b

_____

2 Moss said the glass was “smooth as a pebble”. What does **smooth** mean? (1 mark) 1a

☐ not bumpy or rough ☐ very heavy ☐ full of holes

3 Name **two** ways the tadpoles looked different from the frog. (2 marks) 1b

_____

_____

4 Find and copy **one** word that describes the frog’s eyes. (1 mark) 1a

_____

5 Number these events from 1 to 4. (1 mark) 1c

☐ The tadpoles grow little back legs.

☐ Old Wren says the blobs are frogspawn.

☐ Pip swaps her carrot-top for the glass drop.

☐ The jelly hatches into tadpoles.

6 Why did Bramble say, “Let’s not touch them, Pip”? (1 mark) 1d

_____

_____

7 Why did Moss think the carrot-top was a good swap? (1 mark) 1d

_____

_____

8 Old Wren said, “Not so long ago, you wouldn’t come out of your burrow. And look at you now.” How has Pip changed? (1 mark) 1d

_____

_____

9 At the end, Pip still had her little drop of glass. What do you think she will look at next? Use the story to explain. (1 mark) 1e

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_____

Answers

Year 1

1. frogspawn
2. Old Wren
3. a carrot-top
4. tadpoles
5. 1 Pip found frogspawn in the pond. 2 The eggs hatched into tadpoles. 3 The tadpoles grew legs.
6. True; False (she never touched, she only watched); True

Year 2 (total 10 marks)

1. By the stream.
2. not bumpy or rough
3. Any two, 1 mark each: the frog is green but the tadpoles are black; the frog has legs but the tadpoles have tails. (Accept: the tadpoles have round heads.)
4. big or golden ("big golden eyes")
5. Old Wren says the blobs are frogspawn (1); Pip swaps her carrot-top for the glass drop (2); The jelly hatches into tadpoles (3); The tadpoles grow little back legs (4).
6. They didn't know what the blobs were yet. ("Not till we know what they are.")
7. It was soft and feathery, so he could use it to dust his shelves, like a feather duster.
8. She used to be too shy or scared to come out of her burrow, but now she is braver and goes out on her own. (Accept: she has grown brave.)
9. Any sensible answer linked to the story, for example: other little things that are changing, because she kept it "ready for whatever was going to change next".