

TIDDALIK THE FROG

A Short Musical Story

Music by **GARY DAVERNE**

Words by **CHERIL CLARKE**

This is a story from a long time ago, in what the Australian Aborigines call, "Dreamtime".

Tiddalik is a large frog, the largest, greediest frog ever known.

He endangers the lives of the other animals by drinking all the water.

The animals come up with a plan hoping to make Tiddalik laugh and return the water to the land.

CAST

Tiddalik
Storyteller
Mr Wombat
Kookaburra
Nabunum the Eel
The Lizards
Two Kangaroos

Songs

- No. 1. ONCE LONG AGO IN DREAMTIME
- No. 2. THE RIVERS RAN DRY
- No. 3. TELL US WHAT TO DO MR WOMBAT
- No. 4. THE LAUGHING SONG
- No. 5. DREAMTIME

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TIDDALIK THE FROG - A Children's Musical

Music by Gary Daverne
Words by Cheril Clarke

Storyteller: This is a story from a long time ago, in what the Australian aborigines call Dreamtime.
Tiddalik was a large frog, the largest frog ever known.

SONG: No. 1. ONCE LONG AGO

Verse.1 Once long ago in Dreamtime
 There lived a very large frog
 A very large frog called Tiddalik
 He lived right under a log.

Chorus: Tiddalik by name, Tiddalik the frog
 Tiddalik was ugly, lived under a log
 Tiddalik was gross, Tiddalik was green
 Tiddalik the frog, he was so mean.

V. 2 Tiddalik was mean and selfish
 He liked to have all the say
 And everyone else who knew him
 Would keep right out of his way.

Chorus: Tiddalik by name, Tiddalik the frog
 Tiddalik was ugly, lived under a log
 Tiddalik was gross, Tiddalik was green
 Tiddalik the frog, he was so mean.

V. 3 Tiddalik was huge and slimy
 He gulped and gulped all the food
 He never said please or thank you
 This frog was ever so rude.

Chorus: Tiddalik by name, Tiddalik the frog
 Tiddalik was ugly, lived under a log
 Tiddalik was gross, Tiddalik was green
 Tiddalik the frog, he was so mean.

Tiddalik by name, Tiddalik the frog
Tiddalik was ugly, lived under a log
Tiddalik was gross, Tiddalik was green
Tiddalik the frog, he was so mean.

Storyteller: One sunny day, Tiddalik awoke from a long sleep. He was hot and very thirsty. He said...

TIDDALIK I want a drink of water.

Storyteller: So Tiddalik hopped down to the river. He was a very large frog and he was very thirsty. He drank all the water from the river. He drank all the water from the swamps. He drank all the water from the lakes. He gulped and he gulped every drop and when there was no water left, he sat down under a tree to rest.

He was an even bigger frog now.

(Children's creative music and movement can be added with this narration.)

The hot sun shone down, the trees wilted and shed their leaves. The rivers were dry. The swamps and lakes were dry. Everything was dying, because of the great drought that had come to the land.

Song: **No. 2. THE RIVERS RAN DRY**

The rivers ran dry, (ran dry)
Sun shone down, (shone down)
Heat from the sky, (the sky)
Lakes were dry, (lakes dry)
The rivers ran dry
The rivers ran dry.

V. 2 The trees withered, (withered)
Leaves fell, (leaves fell)
Ever so hot, (so hot)
Hot as Hell, (hot, hot)
The rivers ran dry
The rivers ran dry.

Instrumental break

The rivers ran dry
The rivers ran dry.

V. 3 The land was bare, (land bare)
Grass was gone, (grass bare)
Death in the air, (death, death)
Sun shone down, (shone down)
The rivers ran dry
The rivers ran dry.
The rivers ran dry
The rivers ran dry.
Death was in the air.

Storyteller: When the creatures of the land found that Tiddalik had drunk all the water and caused the great drought, they pleaded with him.

ALL Please Tiddalik, give us back our water.
Please Tiddalik.

Storyteller: The creatures pleaded and pleaded but they could not persuade Tiddalik to give them back their water. Maybe wise old Mr. Wombat could help them.

Song: No. 3. TELL US WHAT TO DO MR. WOMBAT

V. 1 Tell us what to do Mr. Wombat
Tell us of a way to survive
Swamp and plain are dry Mr. Wombat
We need water to stay alive.
We need water to stay alive.

Chorus: Please, please Mr. Wombat. Please tell us a way
Please, please Mr. Wombat
We must stop him today. We must stop him today.

V. 2 Tell us what to do Mr. Wombat
Tell us of a way to survive
Bush and earth are bare Mr. Wombat
They need water to stay alive.
They need water to stay alive.

Chorus: Please, please, Mr. Wombat. Please tell us a way.
Please, please, Mr. Wombat.
We must stop him today. We must stop him today.

V. 3 Tell us what to do Mr. Wombat
Tell us of a way to survive
We need your advice Mr. Wombat
You can help us all stay alive.
You can help us all stay alive.

Chorus: Please, please, Mr. Wombat. Please tell us a way.
Please, please, Mr. Wombat.
We must stop him today. We must stop him today.

MR WOMBAT (*Spoken over the music of the verses.*)

Gather round my friends
I think I've got a plan
If we could only make Tiddalik laugh
I wonder if we can?
If we can make him laugh

Then his mouth would open wide
If his mouth is open very wide
Then water would flow out from inside.

Chorus: Please, please, Mr. Wombat. Please tell us a way.
Please, please, Mr. Wombat.
We must stop him today. We must stop him today.

MR WOMBAT: *(Spoken over the music of the verses.)*

You must all take turns
Tell him your very best joke
Perform or dance a funny act
Until you make him croak.
You must draw lots
To decide who should go first
The one who draws the shortest
Could be the one to make him burst.

Chorus: Thanks, thanks, Mr. Wombat. You've told us a way.
Thanks, thanks, Mr. Wombat.
We will stop him today. We will stop him today.

Storyteller: They all drew straws to decide who should go first.
When Kookaburra drew the shortest straw there was a shout of excitement.

ALL You're first Kookie ("*Cooky*") - you're first.

Storyteller: Kookaburra slowly stepped forward, scratched his head and thought...and thought.

Song: **No. 4. THE LAUGHING SONG**

V. 1 Kookie you spend your time laughing
Laughing at all that you see
Laugh and you laugh so loudly
Laugh as you sit in your tree.
If you can tell Tiddalik some jokes that you know
Tiddalik could laugh and the water would flow.

Chorus: Laugh Tiddalik laugh
Laugh Tiddalik laugh
Laugh Tiddalik laugh
Laugh Tiddalik laugh.

(Verse music repeats softly while Kookie tells some suitable topical jokes)

(Examples:)

1. **Q.** What's a frog's favourite drink?
 A. I don't know - what is a frog's favourite drink?
 A. Croaka-cola.

2. **Q.** What has more lives than a cat?
 A. I don't know, what has more lives than a cat?
 A. A Frog. It croaks every day.

3. **Q.** What is a frog's favourite dance?
 A. I don't know, what is a frog's favourite dance?
 A. Hip Hop.

Chorus: Laugh Tiddalik laugh
 Laugh Tiddalik laugh
 Laugh Tiddalik laugh
 Laugh Tiddalik laugh.

Storyteller: Tiddalik remains impassive.

V. 2 Kookie you're not doing so well
 Kookie he won't even moan
 We've laughed and laughed oh so loudly
 Laughed, but we're laughing alone.
 Perhaps the lizards can take the next go
 Dance in a line 'til the water will flow.

Chorus: Laugh Tiddalik laugh
 Laugh Tiddalik laugh
 Laugh Tiddalik laugh
 Laugh Tiddalik laugh.

Storyteller: Four lizards dance a "Can Can". Tiddalik still remains impassive.

V. 3 Lizzie, he has not responded
 Lizzie, you've failed us as well
 Now it's the turn of two kangas
 But can these two break the spell
 With their tails on the ground, front feet in the air
 They'll make him laugh - they're a comical pair.

Chorus: Laugh Tiddalik laugh
 Laugh Tiddalik laugh
 Laugh Tiddalik laugh
 Laugh Tiddalik laugh.

Storyteller: Two kangaroos spar dance and clown around.
 Tiddalik is still unmoved

Chorus: Laugh Tiddalik laugh
Laugh Tiddalik laugh
Laugh Tiddalik laugh
Laugh Tiddalik laugh.

Storyteller: Tiddalik kept his eyes closed. He ignored them all. The animals turned away in despair. They had no further acts to perform - what more could they do?

(Drum beats)

Then up from the dry riverbed slithered a very strange sight. It was Nabunum (“*Nar-boo-num*”) the eel. She thought she could escape the drought by hiding in the mud of the riverbed. But now even she could no longer stand the dryness and the heat.

Without a word or a glance at any of the other creatures, she slithered up to Tiddalik and began to dance.

At first she moved slowly and gracefully. As the dance became faster and faster, she wriggled and twisted in the most comical fashion. Tiddalik opened his eyes. He began to chuckle softly. His chuckling became louder and louder. His mouth opened and he roared and roared. As he laughed the water flowed from his mouth back onto the parched land.

The water flowed back into the lakes. The water flowed back into the rivers. The water flowed back into the swamps. The creatures were delighted. They ran about splashing themselves with the beautiful water. The trees and plants came back to life.

Nabunum smiled smugly at the other creatures and slithered back to the river.

The drought was over.

Song: No. 5. DREAMTIME

In the dawn of time
When it all began
Dreamtime
When the animals
Roamed freely on the land
Dreamtime

At the very start
When the land was new
Dreamtime
The creatures that lived
Were strange, it's true
Dreamtime. Dreamtime.

Storyteller: Never again would Tiddalik be able to steal the water from the land.
The creatures now knew how to stop him.

This is a story from the Australian Aborigines call Dreamtime.

In the dawn of time
When it all began
Dreamtime
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Dreamtime.

THE END.