

16th Saint Joseph English Speech Contest for the Mayor's Cup

Elementary School Division Recitations: Choose and memorize one of these two short stories. You can find a recording of each recitation on the school website (sjjg.ac.jp).

Cookies *(based on the story from 'Frog and Toad are Together' by Arnold Lobel)*

Toad baked some cookies. They smelled very good, so he ate one. They tasted wonderful. Toad ran to Frog's house and gave a cookie to his friend. "These are the best cookies I have ever eaten!" said Frog. They ate many cookies, one after another.

"You know, Toad," said Frog, with his mouth full, "I think we should stop eating, or we will be sick."

"You're right," said Toad, "Let us eat one last cookie, and then we will stop." They ate one last cookie, and then they ate one *very* last cookie.

"We must stop eating!" cried Frog, "We need willpower. That means trying hard not to do something that you really want to do." Frog put the cookies in a box, tied some string around the box, got a ladder and put the box on a high shelf.

Toad climbed the ladder, took the box down, cut the string and opened the box. "I'm hungry," he said.

Frog took the box outside and shouted, "Hey, birds, I've got cookies!" Birds came from everywhere, picked up all the cookies and flew away.

"We have no more cookies," said Toad sadly.

"But we have lots of willpower!" said Frog.

"Keep your willpower," said Toad, "I'm going home to bake a cake."

Spring *(based on the story from 'Frog and Toad are Friends' by Arnold Lobel)*

Frog knocked on the front door of Toad's house and shouted, "Wake up. It's spring! The sun is shining! The snow is melting!"

"I'm not here," said a voice from inside. Frog walked into the dark house and found Toad lying in bed with all the covers over his head. Frog pulled Toad out of bed and into the bright sun. Toad blinked. "I can't see anything."

"Don't be silly," said Frog, "You can see the warm light of April. We can begin a whole new year together. We will skip through the fields and swim in the river."

"I'm going back to bed," said Toad. "I've been asleep since November, and a little more sleep won't hurt me. Wake me up in May. Good night." Toad went inside, climbed into bed, pulled the covers over his head again and started snoring.

Frog felt lonely. He looked at Toad's calendar. The November page was on top. Frog tore off the November page, then December, January, February, March...and April. He ran back to Toad's bed.

"Toad, wake up! It's May!"

"What?" said Toad, "Is it May already?" Frog showed Toad his calendar. The May page was on top. "It is May!" said Toad and climbed out of bed. He and Frog ran outside to enjoy the spring.