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# The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher

**Beatrix Potter** · *1906 · English original, Project Gutenberg #15077*

A frog who likes wet feet goes fishing for minnows to feed his friends, and finds instead a stickleback, a rustle in the rushes, and a trout. The macintosh that he put on in the rain is what saves him. He hops home in tatters, and the dinner is a roasted grasshopper after all.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

## What does a day's fishing teach a frog who had planned a dish of minnows for his friends?

*"But the trout was so displeased with the taste of the macintosh, that in less than half a minute it spat him out again; and the only thing it swallowed was Mr. Jeremy's goloshes."*
The trout

Jeremy lands Jack Sharp the stickleback instead of a minnow, and then a trout seizes him with a snap. The macintosh tastes so unpleasant that the trout spat him out again. He swims home, sure he should never have dared to go fishing again, and still keeps the invitation: his friends come, and they eat what is in the larder.

KEY CHARACTERS

**Mr. Jeremy Fisher**
*a frog who likes wet feet, and who keeps his invitation even after the trout*

**Jack Sharp**
*the stickleback, covered with spines*

**The trout**
*seizes Jeremy, then spits him out because of the macintosh*

**Sir Isaac Newton**
*a friend in a black and gold waistcoat*

**Mr. Alderman Ptolemy Tortoise**
*eats salad, and brings one in a string bag*

Grades K–2
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01
### A Damp Little House
OPENING
*A frog at the edge of a pond, pleased with the rain.*

- Once upon a time there was a frog called Mr. Jeremy Fisher; he lived in a little damp house amongst the buttercups at the edge of a pond.
- He liked getting his feet wet; nobody ever scolded him, and he never caught a cold.
- He will get some worms and go fishing and catch a dish of minnows for his dinner; if he catches more than five, he will invite Mr. Alderman Ptolemy Tortoise and Sir Isaac Newton.

02
### The Lily-Leaf Boat
THE POND
*Macintosh, goloshes, a reed pole, and a little red float.*

- Mr. Jeremy put on a macintosh, and a pair of shiny goloshes, and set off with enormous hops to his boat.
- The boat was round and green, and very like the other lily-leaves.
- His rod was a tough stalk of grass, his line a fine long white horse-hair, and he tied a little wriggling worm at the end.

03
### A Butterfly Sandwich
LUNCH
*The shower, a tweaked toe, and a rustle among the rushes.*

- After nearly an hour he thinks it is getting tiresome, and he eats a butterfly sandwich until the shower is over.
- A great big water-beetle tweaked the toe of one of his goloshes.
- Something moved with a rustle and a splash amongst the rushes. "I trust that is not a rat," said Mr. Jeremy Fisher.

04
### Not a Minnow
THE BITE
*A tremendous bobbit—and then a worse thing.*

- "A minnow! a minnow! I have him by the nose!" cried Mr. Jeremy Fisher—but he had landed little Jack Sharp the stickleback, covered with spines.
- The stickleback jumped back into the water, and a shoal of little fishes laughed at Mr. Jeremy Fisher.
- Then a great big enormous trout came up and seized Mr. Jeremy with a snap, and dived to the bottom of the pond.

05
### What a Mercy
THE CLOSE
*The macintosh saves him; the friends still come to dinner.*

- The trout was so displeased with the taste of the macintosh that it spat him out again; the only thing it swallowed was Mr. Jeremy's goloshes.
- He hops home across the meadow with his macintosh all in tatters: "What a mercy that was not a pike!"
- He could not offer them fish; Sir Isaac Newton wore his black and gold waistcoat, the Alderman brought a salad, and they had a roasted grasshopper with lady-bird sauce.

> *"What a mercy that was not a pike!"*
> **Mr. Jeremy Fisher** · The bank

Hospitality | A Day's Plan | Fright | Mercy | A Kept Invitation

## What to watch for as you read

GRADES K–2

1. The macintosh is put on in the rain, long before it is needed. Watch how that ordinary garment becomes the thing that saves him.
2. Jeremy's first fear is a rat in the rushes; the real danger is larger, and comes from below.
3. "What a mercy that was not a pike!" He has lost rod and basket, but he still receives his friends. The invitation is kept, though the menu changes.
4. Potter herself thinks the roasted grasshopper with lady-bird sauce must have been nasty. The joke is allowed to close the tale; do not invent a longer lesson than she wrote.

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