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# The Frog and the Rabbit: A Fable

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## THE FROG AND THE RABBIT: A FABLE

Steven Alan with John David Samson

The frog and the rabbit were best of friends. The frog lived in a small pond and the rabbit in a briar patch beside it.

One day they were playing leap frog in a meadow near their homes when a hungry hawk swooped down from the sky and landed on a tree stump next to them. "What are you doing?" he demanded, while trying to decide which to eat first.

The frog, whose knees were shaking, was quick to reply: "We are having a contest to see who can jump the highest."

"Very good," said the hawk. "I like contests. I will award a prize to the winner."

Afraid for his life but also for his friend, the frog planted his feet firmly but sprang less than two feet into the air. The hawk was scornful. "Is that the best you can do, Frog?"

The hawk turned and cast a hungry eye on the rabbit, who was visibly quivering. "Surely you can do better, Rabbit. If you do, I will award the prize to you." Not wanting to show up his friend, the rabbit planted his feet firmly, but jumped no higher.

The hawk was even more scornful now. "Is that the best you can do? I can do much better!"

The rabbit put aside his fears and spoke more boldly now. "How high can you jump? Please show us."

So the hawk planted his feet firmly and, with a flap of his wings, shot high into the sky. In a flash, the rabbit jumped into the briar patch and the frog jumped into the pond.

The hawk went hungry that day.

MORAL FOR HAWKS: Keep your eye on the prize

SECOND MORAL: Don't play with your food

THIRD MORAL: The fool and his meal are soon parted

FOURTH MORAL: Don't boast on an empty stomach

MORAL FOR FRIENDS: Trust is risky but it can have the greatest reward