

Grade: 3
Lexile® Measure: 500L - 600L
Mean Sentence Length: 10.33
Mean Log Word Frequency: 3.67
Word Count: 248

A Splash of Color A Fable

All the other frogs in the swamp croaked loudly. Some of them seemed to excitedly say, “Ribbit!” But you could never describe the sounds Frances Frog made as either of those things. The best you’d ever get from her was a half-hearted, “Ho-hum.”

For her, being in the swamp was terribly boring. “Green leaves, green water, green trees, green me...ho-hum.” She would repeat this to herself day after day as she sat on her green lily pad. Then one day, everything changed.

Near the part of the swamp where Frances lived there was a road. Not many people traveled on it, so it usually didn’t matter much. But one construction truck accidentally added just what Francis needed. You see, the driver of this truck always carried some plastic orange traffic cones with him. Sometimes he had to put them in the street to block traffic where he was working. Usually, these cones were tied tightly together. That kept them from blowing away from the back of the truck. But on this day, the driver hadn’t noticed the loose knot...and one broke free!

The wind carried the cone high into the air for a moment. Then, the cone fell down toward the muddy waters of the swamp and landed on its base with a THUUNCK! Frances had watched the whole thing happen with great joy. And now, in the middle of her green world, there was a bright orange cone sticking out of the water. “I think someone just got a new orange mansion... Me!” she laughed to herself. “I guess good things come to those who wait! RIBBIT!”