Froggy’s Long Swim

Summertime verses for Adventurous Boys

This summer-time story a fairy told me
Of Froggy, the venturesome frog.
The fairy was perched in an old willow tree
By the edge of a pool, and there chanced to see
Froggy sunning himself on a log.

The listening fairy there heard Froggy say:
“I’m glad that I know how to swim;
I’ll find out some new kind of fun here to-day,
There’s no one to hinder, and why should I stay
So close to the pool’s shallow rim?

“I wonder who lives on the opposite side,
’Tis a beautiful place, I’ve no doubt;
There must be an ocean, the world is so wide;
I know I could swim over there if I tried—
I’ll do it, and then I’ll find out.”

In jumped little Froggy to have a long swim
To the beautiful place—but, alas!
Though the fairy there shouted a warning to him,
To keep near the shore, or go round by the rim,—
Froggy met in the pool a black ‘Bass.

There was one bunch of bubbles where Froggy went down—
Went down with the fish out of sight.
“T’ll take Froggy in, he’s so young he might drown,”
Said the hungry black Bass—“over there in Frog-town
They’ll miss little Froggy to-night.”

The playmates and friends of poor Froggy may be
More cautious than ever before,
Since Froggy’s sad fate,—but the fairy told me
To put up this sign on the old willow tree:
“Little Froggies should keep near the shore!”

Hannah Warner.