

# A Toad For Tuesday

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# READING & ACTIVITY GUIDE

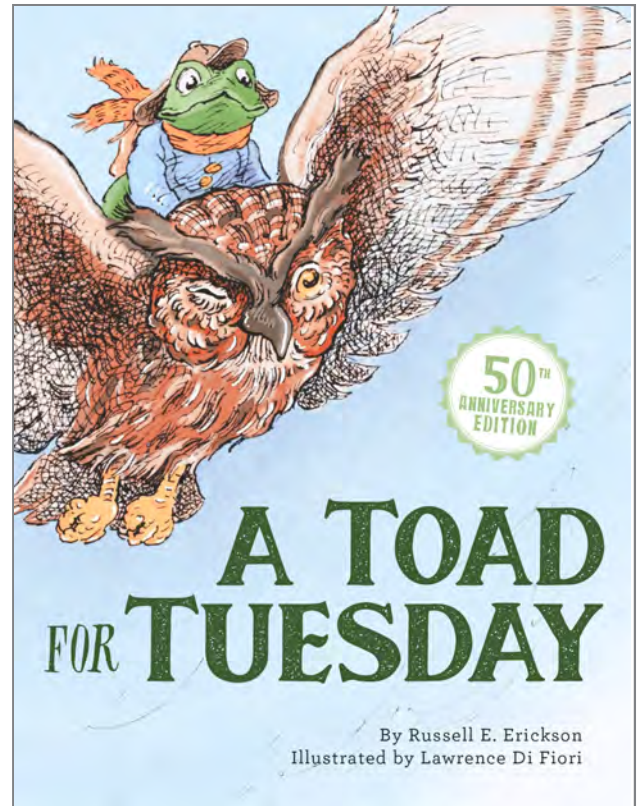
## About the Book

It's the treacherous winter, but Warton the Toad wants to bring a special treat of beetle brittle to his Aunt Toolia. His brother, Morton, thinks it will be dangerous. After all, toads hibernate because it is too cold and too snowy to safely venture outside. But Warton will not be dissuaded from bringing Aunt Toolia this delicious snack.

While out on his adventure, Warton is captured by an owl. The owl takes him into his tree hollow, trapping Warton. The owl, George, tells Warton he will eat him for dinner on the upcoming Tuesday, George's birthday. That gives Warton only six days to plan his escape!

Over the course of his time with George, the two get to know each other. Gradually, Warton thinks that they might become friends and that George will change his mind. But after an argument, circumstances become dire for the toad. In a last effort, he manages to escape the hollow.

But as he is leaving, Warton sees a fox attacking George. Warton has to save George and, with some help, scares off the fox. Warton and George talk through their feelings and become friends, and George helps Warton get to his aunt's house safely.



## Key Themes:

Friendship; Helping others; Honesty; Meeting new people

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Ages 6–8 years

Use these questions to preface and conclude a reading of this book with children.

Encourage them to share their observations as you read the book together, and take time to linger on pages or spreads that generate more discussion.

## Before Reading

- Look at the cover and share what you think the story is going to be about.
- Who are the main characters in the story?
- If it was a cold winter day, would you leave your warm cozy home to bring a treat to an old grandparent, aunt or uncle?

*Exploring Jewish themes:* Throughout the story we are going to search for three Jewish themes:

- Mitzvot- doing good deeds
- Derech Eretz – treating others with respect
- Bikur Holim – helping others feel better

## During Reading

Chapters 1-4

- Warton and Morton are brothers. How are they alike and how are they different?
- Where is Warton planning to go?
- Who does Warton meet?
- Do they get along with each other?
- How do they help each other?

*Exploring Jewish themes:* Did you find a Jewish theme? Tell about it.

Chapters 5- 9

- What happens to Warton?
- Describe Owl's home and his plans for Warton.
- What does Warton do to try to make the situation better?
- Is their relationship changing at all from day1?

Use these questions to preface and conclude a reading of this book with children.

Encourage them to share their observations as you read the book together, and take time to linger on pages or spreads that generate more discussion.

## During Reading Continued

Chapters 10-16

- Tell about Warton's plan to escape.
- What happened to Owl (George) out in the woods.
- What did he do when he got home?
- How did Warton feel and why?
- Who comes to Warton's rescue and how do they escape?
- How did the mice know to help Warton?

*Exploring Jewish themes:* Did you find a Jewish theme? Tell about it.

Chapters 17-19

- While escaping what do they see happening to George?
- What did Warton and the mice do?
- What was in the note that George left for Warton?
- How does the story end?

*Exploring Jewish themes:* Did you find a Jewish theme? Tell about it.

## After Reading

Tell how Owl changed from the beginning of the story to the end of the story.

What caused him to change?

## Optional: Extension Activities

- The story begins by telling us about two toads who live in a cozy home. What is your idea of a cozy home? Draw a picture of a cozy, comfortable room, including furniture, lighting, and objects that your room would have.
- Design the dark woods that Warton had to travel through. Be creative and include anything that might be in those woods. Use playdoh or clay for a 3-dimensional project.
- Create a poster (using pictures and words) showing Warton's feelings throughout the story. Tell what was happening to cause the different emotions that he experienced.