Tales of the River

**WHY CATFISH STAY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER**

CATFISH USED TO PREFER THE SURFACE.

TO PROTECT THEIR EYES THEY WORE RESIN GLASSES HARVESTED FROM SPECIAL TREES.

GOOD QUALITY! PERFECT FOR GLASSES!

THANK GOODNESS! MINE ARE ALWAYS BREAKING!

WE WERE NESTING THERE!

SO? THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE THIS ONE CAME FROM!

THE TREES KEPT FALLING...

I'M MAKING SOME EXTRA PAIRS, JUST IN CASE!

THAT'S IT! WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!

EXCUSE ME? SOMETHING THE MATTER?

YES! YOU'RE THE MATTER!

PERFECT FOCUS!

A LITTLE MORE SHAPING...

IF YOU BRING DOWN ANOTHER RESIN TREE, WE'LL WE'LL -

WHAT WILL WE DO?

MOVE AGAIN, I GUESS!

HA HA HA!

THOSE LITTLE ORANGE BIRDS ARE FUNNY!

WE'RE NOT ORANGE!

NO, IT'S THEIR RESIN GLASSES... THE NETWITS! AND THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!

WHILE CATFISH AND HIS GANG ENJOYED THEIR SIESTA...

I'VE LOST MINE TOO!

ARGH! I CAN'T SEE A THING!

WHEN THEY AWOKE -

I SAW MY GLASSES!

GO LOOK FOR THEM! WE THREW YOUR GLASSES INTO THE DEEPEST PART OF THE RIVER!

HAI! THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM BUSY FOR A WHILE!

IT CERTAINLY DID! CATFISH AND HIS GANG ARE LOOKING FOR THEIR GLASSES TO THIS DAY!

FOUND THEM!

HOO-RAY!

FALSE ALARM! IT'S JUST A BIT OF OLD PLASTIC.
HERE'S A QUESTION FOR YOU...

YAHOO! LOOK AT ME, I'M FLYING!

GEE, THAT'S NEW...

GECKO WAS A REGULAR NIGHT OWL! THE REAL REGULAR NIGHT OWL WASN'T IMPRESSED. NOR WERE THE ANIMALS WHO PREFERRED TO BE ASLEEP AT THIS HOUR!

OWL, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WISE. YOU HAVE TO HELP US!

GECKO HAS ME TOO EXHAUSTED TO LOOK FOR FOOD!

THANKS & NO!

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR AND DOWN THE HATCH!

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS I CAN TAKE!

DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD SLEEP?

SLEEP? IS THAT LIKE A NAP?

AND CATCHING INSECTS?

YES, BUT IT'S LONGER!

LOOK AT CHAMELEON. HE CATCHES ALL THE INSECTS HE NEEDS DURING THE DAY!

I'M AMAZED HE CATCHES ANY. HE'S ALWAYS ASLEEP!

SO... IS THAT A CHALLENGE?

THINK YOU CAN CATCH MORE INSECTS THAN GECKO BY SUNSET?

SURE, SURE.

WHAT DO I GET WHEN I WIN?

GECKO'S ENERGY WAS ALMOST INEXHAUSTIBLE. ALMOST.

EVEN MORE SWELL-HEADED!

HA! SOME CHANCE OF THAT!

NOW THAT'S TECHNIQUE! BUT THERE'S SO LITTLE TIME LEFT!

SUNSET! AND THE WINNER IS...

WITH AN EXTRA 1000 BUGS...

CHAMELEON!

HERE'S ANOTHER QUESTION! SOMEONE IN THIS STORY DOESN'T ACTUALLY LIVE IN THE AMAZON WHO?

COULDN'T YOU FIND ME A BETTER OPPONENT?

CHAMELEON WAS NO FOOL. HE KNEW INSECTS TEND TO SWARM IN THE LATE AFTERNOON!

NOW THAT'S OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER GECKO!

GECKO!

YAWN!

AND GECKO KEPT TO THE AGREEMENT. THANK GOODNESS!

WHOA - ?

OKAY, TIME FOR A POWER NAP!

HERE'S ANOTHER NAME! SOMEONE IN THE STORY DOESN'T ACTUALLY LIVE IN THE AMAZON WHO?
ONE DAY KING AND QUEEN EAGLE GATHERED THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT THEM... YOU LOT ARE GROWN NOW. IT'S TIME YOU ALL FLEW OFF AND FOUND KINGDOMS OF YOUR OWN!

ALL EXCEPT LITTLE PRINCESS DON'T YOU MEAN? LOOK AT HER! BIG BODY, LITTLE WINGS! SHE'LL NEVER MAKE IT.

MAYBE SHE SHOULD STAY. WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO CARRY HER!

NO! YOU'RE ALL GOING! NOW SCRAM! HOP IT!

DON'T FORGET TO CALL!

SO THEY ALL FLEW OUT INTO THE WORLD...

COULD YOU SLOW DOWN A BIT?

WE TOLD YOU YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP!

STUMPY WINGS!

THE OLDEST BROTHER DECIDED TO SETTLE IN THE MOUNTAINS.

THIS IS A GOOD PLACE. I LIKE IT HERE!

A BIT HIGH UP FOR ME!

THE SECOND BROTHER OPTED FOR THE HILLS AND FORESTS.

THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!

SUITE YOURSELF. SEE YOU LATER!

I'M TIRED!

STOP COMPLAINING! IF THOSE STUNTED WINGS ARE NO GOOD FOR FLYING, MAYBE YOU SHOULD WALK!

HEY, LOOK AT THAT!

RAINFOREST! NOW THIS IS THE PLACE FOR ME!

WHOOPPEE!

WHHEEEE!

CRASH!

OUCH!

GROAN. ARE YOU OKAY?

LOOK AT ME!

THIS ISN'T THE PLACE FOR ME! THE TREES ARE TOO CLOSE TOGETHER!

SO OLDER SISTER FLEW OFF TO THE SEA AND BECAME FISH EAGLE! NOWADAYS THEY CALL LITTLE PRINCESS HARPY EAGLE... AND SHE'S QUEEN OF THE RAINFOREST!
COLOURING-IN TIME

RIVER KID HAS JUST FINISHED PAINTING HIS DAD'S BOAT!

HE'S COPYING THE COLOURS OF THE BRIGHTLY COLOURED CATERPILLARS HE'S JUST SEEN!

COLOUR IN THE PICTURE TO SEE THE RESULT!
Tales of the River

**Poison Dart Frog**

**Nowadays, if you're colourful, and you're a frog, you're probably poisonous. It wasn't always so...**

**All right class, on this field trip I want you to identify plants. Who can tell me what this is?**

**It's a liana! Very good, you're the new girl aren't you?**

**Yes, miss!**

**All right, lunch time! You have half an hour to catch your own insects!**

**Look, she's at it again! Who? The new kid!**

**What's she doing?**

**Eating those horrible poisonous insects!**

**Hey, new girl! How can you eat those things?**

**They are actually really poisonous, you know!**

**Yurgh! Your breath stinks! Ahh, you're right!**

**Come on children, time to get back! Stay away from smelly breath, everyone!**

**Oh, I'd better catch up, I suppose.**

**Aah! Looking for the others?**

**Grrrr! Give them back! Ha ha! Fleshy froggy aren't you!**

**I ate them! Don't worry!**

**I believe we have our new girl to thank! It appears ocelot didn't like the way she tasted!**

**Argh! I feel terrible! What happened?**

**Next day in the playground, the new girl's secret was out!**

**I love poisonous insects! Not as much as I do! I bet I can eat as much as the new girl!**

**Can you taste my caterpillar and tell me if it's poisonous enough?**

**I tried to become a poison dart frog myself once, you know. But, well, I hate to admit it, but I sympathize with ocelot!**

** Poisonous insects? Blechh!**
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!
CAN YOU SPOT 12 DIFFERENCES?

ANSWERS ON THE BACK COVER!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING ROSIE?
I'M TAKING THE FISH STEW AROUND TO GRAND.
SAY GET WELL SOON AND BRING THE DISH BACK!

YOU SAVED MY BALLOON! THANKS ROSIE.

HAVING A PARTY?

WHAT THE - I NEARLY ALL THE PARENTS ARE ASLEEP!
ANY MORE CAKE?

HOW IS SHE STILL AWAKE? I PUT ENOUGH OF THESE DRUGGED BERRIES ON THE CAKE TO KNOCK THAT CLOWN OUT!

THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THAT CLOWN.
BABY HOATZINS WILL JUMP FROM THEIR NESTS INTO THE WATER IF THEY'RE ALARMED! THEY CLimb BACK UP WHEN IT'S SAFE, USING LITTLE CLAWS IN THEIR WINGS TO HOLD ON!

STICK INSECTS CAN GROW TO 30 CM! IF THREATENED, THEY SQUIRT OUT A FOUL-SMELLING LIQUID, WHICH PUTS OFF ANY POTENTIAL PREDATOR!

GECKOS DON'T BLINK. THEY KEEP THEIR EYES MOIST BY LICKING THEM!

THE MALE WHITE-BEARDED MANAKIN DOES A COURTSHIP DANCE TO ATTRACT A MATE. BEFORE STARTING HE CLEARS A STAGE FOR HIMSELF ON THE FOREST FLOOR!

SCIENTISTS HAVE RECENTLY BEGUN STUDYING A GROUP OF CREATURES THAT LIVE IN THE LEAF LITTER AT THE EDGES OF RIVERS. THEY LOOK LIKE LEAVES, FLOAT LIKE LEAVES... BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY FISH!
IN THE PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA, THERE ARE SOME ANIMALS THAT SHOULDN’T BE ABLE TO FLY, BUT DO ANYWAY!

READY YOU LOT?

GO, GO, GO!

THE FLYING FROG IS MORE OF A PARACHUTING FROG.

THE FLYING SNAKE CAN FLATTEN ITS RIB CAGE TO ENABLE IT TO RIDE THE AIR LIKE A RIBBON. IT CAN GLIDE UP TO 50 M!

YAHOO!

THE FLYING DRAGON KEEPS ITS WINGS (SKIN STRETCHED BETWEEN EXTENDED RIBS) FOLDED AT ITS SIDE UNTIL IT NEEDS THEM TO GLIDE!

HANG ON, MY FLYING GOGGLES ARE MISTY!

LAST ONE TO THE RIVER IS A FLIGHTLESS TREE-FROG!

HEY!
HERE WE ARE THE PERFECT PLACE!

ARE YOU SURE IT’S SAFE? I’VE NEVER BEEN THIS FAR INTO THE FOREST BEFORE!

OF COURSE! WE USED TO COME OUT HERE ALL THE TIME WHEN WE WERE KIDS!

GLUG GLUG

THIRSTY WORK THIS PICNICKING!

NOW LET’S EAT!

MONKEYS? ARE YOU SURE?

IT CAME FROM THE BUSHES!

THIRSTY WORK ALL THIS TRAVELLING! GLUG!

KLONK

BONK

KLONK

BONK

THAT CAME FROM THE RIVER!

GIANT OTTERS?

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?

NO! NOT ’TIL AFTER WE’VE EATEN!

AT LEAST IF WE COULD SEE THE OTTERS!

DAD, YOU KNOW THAT PEPPER YOU PUT ON EVERYTHING?

WELL, IT’S CRAWLING ALL OVER YOUR FACE!

NEXT PICNIC, WE GO TO THE PARK!

NO, PICNICS ARE OUT! NEXT PICNIC WE STAY AT HOME!

COME ON, I’M STARVED!

UM?
**IT'S TIME FOR YOUR WEEKLY...**

**CANOE TRIP INTO TOWN!**

**ONLY, TODAY IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE DAYS!**
PLAY WITH TWO OR MORE PLAYERS, ROLL THE DICE AND SEE WHO GETS THERE BEFORE THE SHOPS CLOSE!

1. **STOP FOR A SNACK AND MISS A GO.**
2. **A MANATEE SHOWS YOU A SHORTCUT, GO FORWARD 4 PLACES.**
3. **YOU STOP TO WATCH THE JAGUAR THAT PROBABLY SPOOKED THE PIGS, GO BACK 3 PLACES.**
4. **A PIRABUCU SPLASHES SO LOUDLY YOU FALL OUT OF YOUR BOAT! GO BACK 5!**
5. **RACE THE OTTER FORWARD 5 PLACES!**
6. **GET AHEAD BY FOLLOWING A GIANT MORPHO DOWN A HIDDEN CHANNEL!**
7. **RAPIDS, YIPPEE! SPEED FORWARD 3 PLACES.**
8. **A BRANCH FALLS INTO YOUR CANOE, MAKE IT AN ANGRY STICK INSECT. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY CAN DO! PAGE 5 PADDLE AWAY FAST 3 PLACES!**
9. **WILD PIGS! MISS A GO.**
10. **NEW PIGS! GO BACK 2 PLACES, AND HOPE IT STOPS.**
11. **YOU REMEMBER YOU LEFT YOUR BAG BACK AT THE TREE. RETURN TO 57.**
12. **OH, GREAT! ALMOST THERE AND A HARPY EAGLE FLIES OFF WITH YOUR BAG! GO BACK TO 4.**
13. **THE RIVER GRASS AND WATER LILIES CONFUSE YOU, GO BACK 3 PLACES.**
14. **YOU GET TANGLED IN THE ROOTS! MISS A GO.**
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16. **YOU GET TANGLED IN THE ROOTS! MISS A GO.**
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18. **YOU GET TANGLED IN THE ROOTS! MISS A GO.**
19. **FALLEN TREE CLIMBING OVER IT MAKES YOU MISS 5 GOES.**
20. **YOU STOP TO WATCH THE JAGUAR THAT PROBABLY SPOOKED THE PIGS, GO BACK 3 PLACES.**
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45. **OH, GREAT! ALMOST THERE AND A HARPY EAGLE FLIES OFF WITH YOUR BAG! GO BACK TO 4.**
HERE I AM, CHICO!

READY WHEN YOU ARE!

I THOUGHT WE WERE ONLY GOING FOR THE AFTERNOON!

HEY, CHICO! ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN. MY DAD GOT LOST ONCE AND IT TOOK HIM ALMOST THE ENTIRE DAY TO GET HOME AGAIN!

THAT WAS IN THE CITY. BRUNO AND HE WAS IN HIS TRUCK.

SOME TIME LATER.

SEE THE SLOTH?

THERE! GREAT DETAIL! FUNNY HOW IT LOOKS LIKE A BUNCH OF OLD DEAD LEAVES!

THAT IS A BUNCH OF OLD DEAD LEAVES. THE SLOTH'S ON THE NEXT BRANCH!

LET'S GO THIS WAY.

BUT THIS IS AS FAR AS I USUALLY GO ON MY OWN.

I'LL ZOOM IN WITH THE TELEPHOTO.

THE TRAIL FINISHES HERE!

DON'T WORRY! MY DAD LENT ME HIS GLOBAL POSITIONING SATELLITE PHONE!

LATER STILL.

IT'S AN EMERALD TREE BOX!

YOU DON'T FOOL ME, CHICO! THAT'S JUST A LIANA WE GET THOSE IN TOWN TOO!

WHAT ARE YOU EATING?

CASHEW NUTS? WANT SOME?

I'M STILL FULL FROM OUR LAST SNACK BREAK. IF YOU'RE STILL HUNGRY, I HAVE ONE OF MY HIGH-ENERGY BARS!

WE SHOULD TURN BACK.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL CHECK THE BATTERY.

BATTERY'S DEAD!

NO PROBLEM! I STILL HAVE MY COMPASS. DO WE KNOW WHICH DIRECTION IS HOME? NORTH? SOUTH?

NO IDEA, BUT WE CAN FOLLOW MY TRAIL OF NUTS.

BRILLIANT! HANG ON, I'VE GOT A HIGH INTENSITY LED TORCH HERE!

SEE? ANOTHER ONE! IT'S THIS WAY!

FILIALLY...

BACK IN THE VILLAGE, AND JUST BEFORE SUNSET! I HOPE YOU SEE NOW. WE COULDN'T HAVE MANAGED WITHOUT MY EQUIPMENT!
THE CULTURE GANG

DREAM ON BOYS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'VE ALWAYS SAID IT, DON'T YOU HAVE A VERY HANDSOME PROFILE!
YAAH! FOLLOW ME!
YOU NEED MONEY TO EAT IN HERE!

THEY HAVEN'T PUT THEIR DELIVERY OF FLOUR INTO STORAGE YET; GRAB ONE! TWO TO A BAG.

THAT'S NICE! WE GONNA DO IT FOR THEM, DON?

THAT'S THE POINT!

ONE ORDER OF FEIJOADO, TWO OF COSIDO!

TWO PATO NO TUCUPI!

OKAY NOW PUSH THEM INTO THE BOAT!

HURRY IT UP! THE CUSTOMERS ARE WAITING!

DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS GONNA WORK?

ONE FEIJOADO, TWO COSIDO, TWO PATO NO TUCUPI!

THANK YOU

Yeah, smarten your feathers!
THE COSIDO IS FOR TABLE 9, OUR BEST CUSTOMER! I HOPE THE PRAWN IS THICK!

IT’S THICK! IT’S THICK!

WE HAVE OUR REPUTATION TO THINK OF! WE’RE NOT THE FINEST ESTABLISHMENT IN TOWN FOR NOTHING!

DON YOUR CLAW’S IN MY EYE!

SHUDDUP AND HOLD STEADY!

THANK YOU!

OH, WAITER!

THERE’S A FEATHER IN MY STEW!

IT’S ALL RIGHT. I CAN SPARE IT!

ALLOW ME!

REPLACE THIS IMMEDIATELY!

YES SIR!

AND SET THAT COLD SEEN TO! YOUR VOICE SOUNDS TERRIBLE!

CHEF! SAME AGAIN FOR TABLE 9! AND PULL OUT ALL THE STOP’S THIS TIME!

RIGHT AWAY!

RAMON! HELP ME WITH THIS, WILL YOU?

SLAM

OKAY BOYS! NOW WE HAVE THE PLACE TO OURSELVES!
LATER:  
BUT MATTRE D'! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! THEY'RE NOT ANOTHER WORD! IF A CUSTOMER CAN PAY, A CUSTOMER IS SERVED! WE HAVE OUR REPUTATION TO THINK OF!

EXQUISITE SOUP! SUBTLE YET ASSERTIVE. UNDERSTATED YET PIQUANT!

DROP SOME SLICES OF PIZZA IN IT WILL YAY, BUDDY?

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YA! YOU REALLY CAME UP WITH THE SOUDS THIS TIME, TUCA!

NEXT ISSUE  
EVERY STORY IS ABOUT TREE-FROGS!  
EVERY ONE? HA! I'M THE EDITOR SO I GET TO SAY!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE ANSWERS

Publisher's Notice: New Editor required. Must enjoy humid conditions and making appearances in 'Tales of the River' and elsewhere in the comic.