

20. Save the Frogs!

CAST: (1M, 2F) KELSEY, CRYSTAL, DONNY

PROPS: Four boxes or trays, notepads, pens, trash can.

SETTING: Several small opened boxes or trays are set out on tables.

1 (At rise *KELSEY, CRYSTAL, and DONNY are holding notepads and pens. In a single file, they approach the first box.*)

4 *KELSEY: (Looks inside the box, makes a face, then writes down an answer. Turns to CRYSTAL.) I think it's a kidney.*

6 *CRYSTAL: Ewww! I'll take your word for it. I'm not even looking! (Writes in her notepad, then looks back at DONNY.) Kelsey thinks it's a kidney.*

9 *DONNY: (Looks into the first box.) It's a liver. (Writes.) The liver extracts impurities from the blood so they can be eliminated from the body. It also converts food into nutrients by creating bile, an important chemical that digests food.*

14 *KELSEY and CRYSTAL: Oh! (Erases answers and makes changes.)*

15 *KELSEY: Let's move on. (Looks inside second box, makes a face, then writes down answer. Turns to CRYSTAL.) I think it's a spleen.*

18 *CRYSTAL: I trust you. I'm not looking. (Writes down answer, then turns to DONNY.) Kelsey thinks it's a spleen. Whatever that is.*

21 *DONNY: (Looks into the second box.) It's a kidney. (Writes.) The kidney is brownish in color and located in the lower part of the frog's abdomen.*

24 *KELSEY and CRYSTAL: Oh! (Erases answers and makes changes.)*

25 *CRYSTAL: Isn't this the stupidest science test ever?*

1 **KELSEY: Is stupidest a word?**

2 **CRYSTAL: I think so.**

3 **DONNY: It is.**

4 **KELSEY: Well, I agree, this is the stupidest science test! Naming**
5 **body parts! Please!**

6 **CRYSTAL: And disgusting!**

7 **KELSEY: Crystal, you haven't even looked in any of the boxes.**

8 **CRYSTAL: I have a weak stomach. And since Mr. Carter put us**
9 **in a group, I can rely on your expertise.**

10 **KELSEY: You mean rely on Donny's expertise. So far, I haven't**
11 **got one right.**

12 **CRYSTAL: That's OK, Kelsey. You tried.**

13 **KELSEY: Well, maybe I'll get the next one. (Looks inside the**
14 **third box, studies it for a moment, then writes down answer.**

15 **Turns to CRYSTAL.) I think it's a lung.**

16 **CRYSTAL: Sounds good to me. (Writes down answer, then turns**
17 **to DONNY.) Kelsey thinks it's a lung.**

18 **DONNY: (Looks inside the third box.) It's a stomach. (Writes.) The**
19 **stomach is a storage sac for food. It digests food by**
20 **breaking it into smaller particles.**

21 **CRYSTAL: Ewww ...**

22 **DONNY: The enzymes and acids mix with the particles and ...**

23 **KELSEY: That's OK, Donny! Really! (Erases answer and makes**
24 **changes.)**

25 **CRYSTAL: (Erases answer and makes changes.) Thank you for**
26 **your wisdom, Donny. We couldn't have passed this stupid**
27 **test without you.**

28 **KELSEY: You know what this reminds me of?**

29 **CRYSTAL: What?**

30 **KELSEY: That game called Operation. Where you have all those**
31 **little body parts and you have to figure out what they are**
32 **and where they go.**

33 **CRYSTAL: Without getting buzzed! (Grabs Kelsey's arm.) Buzz!**

34 **You lose!**

35 **KELSEY: (Laughing) Seriously, have you ever heard of a science**

1 teacher giving a test like this? My brother always talked
 2 about dissecting frogs, but he never did this!

3 CRYSTAL: Students, today our test is, "Guess the frog's body
 4 parts!"

5 DONNY: Can we move on now?

6 KELSEY: Certainly. (*Looks inside the fourth box.*) Hey, I know
 7 this one! It's a heart!

8 CRYSTAL: Ewww! Not that I don't trust you, Kelsey, but I'm
 9 going to wait to write down my answer. Just to make sure.

10 KELSEY: I don't blame you. Donny ... it's all yours.

11 DONNY: (*Looks inside the fourth box.*) You are correct. Just like
 12 the human heart, the frog's heart has arteries and valves
 13 that move blood from chambers and organs. Arteries
 14 carry blood from the heart and the veins return the blood
 15 back to the heart.

16 KELSEY: And we thank you for that little science lesson, Donny.
 17 (*Writes.*) Box number four is a heart.

18 CRYSTAL: (*Writes.*) I think we're going to get a hundred.

19 KELSEY: I think so, too.

20 CRYSTAL: But I wonder ...

21 KELSEY: What?

22 CRYSTAL: I wonder where the rest of it is.

23 KELSEY: The rest of what?

24 CRYSTAL: The rest of the frog! The rest of the body parts! The
 25 actual body!

26 KELSEY: Maybe the trash? (*The girls lean over and carefully look
 27 inside a nearby trash can.*)

28 DONNY: Probably in the refrigerator.

29 CRYSTAL: Ewww!

30 KELSEY: Do you think Mr. Carter is going to make us do that
 31 operation thing tomorrow?

32 CRYSTAL: That'd be terrible! I couldn't put all the organs back
 33 where they go!

34 KELSEY: Me neither!

35 DONNY: I could.

1 KRYSTAL: And thank goodness you're on our team, Donny!

2 DONNY: But knowing Mr. Carter, that would be an individual
 3 test.

4 CRYSTAL: If Mr. Carter made me do that, I'd throw up!

5 DONNY: First, we'd slip on the surgical gloves ...

6 CRYSTAL: Count me out!

7 DONNY: Then pick up the silver tweezers, and carefully, one by
 8 one ...

9 KELSEY: Without getting buzzed. (*Grabs CRYSTAL and makes a
 10 buzzing sound.*)

11 DONNY: (*Mimes.*) Then, carefully, insert the kidneys back into
 12 their rightful place.

13 CRYSTAL: Stop it! Seriously, I'm going to puke! (*Holding her
 14 hand over her mouth.*) My frog would be covered with
 15 vomit.

16 DONNY: Then the liver ...

17 CRYSTAL: Ewww!

18 DONNY: The gall bladder, the stomach ...

19 KELSEY: Donny, we get the picture. Can this little lab
 20 demonstration be over now?

21 CRYSTAL: (*Hand still over mouth.*) Please?

22 KELSEY: At least we should all get a hundred for this part of
 23 our exam.

24 CRYSTAL: (*Hand still over mouth.*) Do you feel sorry for it?

25 KELSEY: For the frog?

26 DONNY: It's dead. It can't feel anything.

27 KELSEY: But it used to be alive, Donny. Just think, if Mr. Carter
 28 hadn't killed it ...

29 CRYSTAL: It'd be basking in the sun on a lily pad right now.

30 DONNY: Mr. Carter didn't kill it.

31 KELSEY: Then who did? He had to cut it open to get its heart!

32 DONNY: They're already dead when they're sent to the school.

33 KELSEY: How do you know?

34 DONNY: I just know.

35 CRYSTAL: (*Hand still over mouth.*) How do they kill them?

1 **DONNY:** That I don't know.

2 **CRYSTAL:** Wow, there's actually something that you don't

3 know?

4 **DONNY:** But I do know that annually, three million frogs are

5 killed for the purpose of dissecting in the classroom.

6 However, there is now a new alternative.

7 **KELSEY:** What's that?

8 **DONNY:** Computer simulations.

9 **CRYSTAL:** I'd still throw up.

10 **KELSEY:** Mr. Carter needs to do that! Save the planet! Save the

11 animals! Save the frogs!

12 **DONNY:** Mr. Carter believes in hands-on experience.

13 **KELSEY:** How do you know?

14 **DONNY:** I heard him talking about it.

15 **KELSEY:** We should start a petition! Save the frogs!

16 **DONNY:** I disagree. Frogs are dumb. And we can learn from

17 them. (Goes to one of the boxes and reaches inside.) Take

18 this heart for instance.

19 **CRYSTAL:** What are you doing? Don't take it out!

20 **DONNY:** I just want to show you something.

21 **KELSEY:** Donny, you're not supposed to touch it!

22 **DONNY:** Just for a minute. I want to show you something! (Lifts

23 out his closed fist and moves toward CRYSTAL.)

24 **CRYSTAL:** (Jumps back.) Get away from me!

25 **DONNY:** (Moves closer to her.) If you'll look closely ...

26 **CRYSTAL:** No! I'm not looking at a dead frog's heart!

27 **DONNY:** But I want to show you something.

28 **CRYSTAL:** (Covers her mouth.) Do you want me to throw up on

29 your hand? Because that's what I'm going to do if you

30 show it to me!

31 **KELSEY:** Donny, don't.

32 **DONNY:** But look. (Opens his hand.) Look.

33 **CRYSTAL:** (Removes hand from mouth.) Where'd it go? Did you

34 drop it? (Jumps back, looking on floor.)

35 **KELSEY:** Not funny, Donny.

1 **CRYSTAL:** You were just teasing me?

2 **DONNY:** (Begins laughing.) I thought that was funny!

3 **KELSEY:** Come on, Crystal. Let's go turn our papers in to Mr.

4 Carter. And I want to talk to him about my Save the Frog

5 campaign. I'm really serious about it, too!

6 **CRYSTAL:** I'll sign your petition if you start one up.

7 **KELSEY:** Thanks. (KELSEY and CRYSTAL exit. DONNY moves

8 over to one of the boxes and stares inside it for a long time.

9 He looks up, glances around the room, reaches into the box,

10 then lifts out his closed fist.)

11 **DONNY:** (As he exits quickly.) Cool!