



Created by **The Center for Literacy and Disability Studies**  
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Under Contract With the State Department of Public Instruction, Division of Exceptional Children

## **Making Your Own Tactual Book: I Made a Frog**

**(Book by Mary J. Chester, From the Life Cycles Start-to-Finish Literacy Starter Kit, Don Johnston Inc., [www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com))**

### **Why?**

Students with deaf-blindness have limited access to typical children's literature. This book has been adapted to meet this need. The following contains a materials shopping list and a page-by-page description for making your own. The book has been adapted so that it is also appropriate for students with low vision. There are small pieces in these books that may fall off with use. It is critical to supervise your students appropriately around this book, as the numerous, small items present serious choking hazards. Small strips of clear packing tape have been used to reinforce many of the tactuals. When possible, the tape has been placed so that it doesn't cover up important tactual information.

### **Tactualizing Books**

When deciding what to tactualize in a book, it's important to identify the key concept(s) being taught on a particular page. This may also include a concept that is not directly in the text, but is present in the visual picture. This concept can be tactualized. Thus, you may not need to have a tactual to represent every single item on every page. The use of color has been included for students who have some residual vision, as well as for their sighted peers who may be reading alongside.

### **Getting Started with Tactualizing I Made a Frog**

1. Get the following basic tools/equipment
    - High temperature glue gun & glue sticks
    - X-Acto Knife
    - Scissors (regular and those that make wavy edges)
    - All Purpose Craft Snips
    - Ruler
    - Laminator & laminate
    - Packing Tape
    - Hole puncher
  2. Go shopping and assemble tactuals/materials (see shopping list)
  3. Take apart the book and laminate individual pages
  4. Tactualize according to page-by-page directions
  5. Bind using comb binder
  6. Add Braille (Plan A: Work with VI teacher to get text brailled; Plan B: Use Braille labeler-very laborious!!)
- \*\*It is easier to tactualize all of the pages individually. Wait and bind book together after you have finished tactualizing it.**



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## Shopping List for I Made a Frog

(Book by Mary J. Chester, From the Life Cycles-Birth & Beyond, Start-to-Finish Literacy Starter Kit, Don Johnston Inc., www.donjohnston.com)

Craft Store (Michael's/AC Moore's)	Hardware Store (Home Depot/Lowe's)	Miscellaneous (Around the house)
Fun Foam: a flesh-like color, 1 large sheet (or 2 small) Fun Foam: light green, 1 large sheet (or 2 small) Slick Paint: black, blue Sticky-back Felt (for shirt): 1 large sheet (or 2 small) Yarn (for hair) A green material, thin but durable: tablecloth, shower curtain or plastic ribbon are possibilities 1 bag dry draft moss 1 bouquet of small artificial flowers and leaves 1 sheet of stiff vinyl, not more than 1/16" thick 1 package small round beads for frogs' eyes (black, brown, or gold) 1 package small round beads for frog eggs (white or pearl) 1 package medium round beads, white or pearl 1 green hot glue stick	Black or silver electrical tape  1 thin, adhesive back vinyl tile  "Household Goop" glue (*Allow Household Goop to dry thoroughly, per instructions on the tube, before the illustration is used.)	Round plastic lid, about 5" diameter  1 large, tapered plastic bottle top OR a small plastic cup, cut in half* Note: a bottle cap is recommended, as a plastic cup is likely to be much less durable. *(If the plastic is 1/8" or thicker, you may need PVC pipe cutters.)  4 Small plastic or rubber frogs



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## Page-by-Page Descriptions for Book Tactualizing: I Made a Frog

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Before starting, print out the stencils in the kit. These will be used to trace and cut items for book. Stencils included in this kit are shown oriented in the directions of the final illustration. Thus it is assumed that a user who traces the stencils on the **back** of a material (e.g. the paper of adhesive-back felt) will also turn the stencil over. This way, the different parts of the completed picture will fit together as intended.

**A note about glue & tape:** It may be helpful to use more than necessary to increase durability. Over time with use items may begin to pull away from page. Packing tape can be used to tape down ends of stems and other items. Thin strips can be used so as to not interfere or cover up important tactual information.

**\*\*\*Enjoy the book, but please supervise your students appropriately as the numerous, small items present serious choking hazards.**

Page	Key Teaching Concept	Item(s) Represented	Materials Needed	What To Do	Picture
Front Cover	Introduce the subject of the book	Adult frog  Moss	Stencils F-1a and F-1b Fun Foam, green 1 small round bead (eye) 1 Green hot glue stick  Dry craft moss	Trace the stencils onto the green Fun Foam and cut out. Glue part 1b under 1a, just below indentation of the frog's neck. Then, fold and glue (with clear hot glue) both legs: part (A) under the body; part (B) overlapping (A); and part (C) under (B).  Glue the round beads on either side of the frog's head, on top, with green hot glue. Use enough glue so that a ring forms around each bead.  Glue the front feet and the lower part of the frog's body (including the back feet) to the page with clear hot glue.	



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1	Introduction of the human character in the story. This picture also sets up the scale relationship of the frog and the human, which is reestablished throughout the story.	Girl's palm  Adult frog	Stencil H-1 Fun Foam, flesh color  For frog, see Front Cover.	Trace stencil H-1 onto the Fun Foam and cut out. Also cut along the inside lines: between the fingers and across the palm, from the thumb.  Glue the lower part of the hand (thumb side) slightly overlapping the palm. Glue the hand to the page.  Recreate "Adult Frog" as on Front Cover, OR use a small plastic/rubber frog. Glue this to the center of the palm.	
2	Gather and decode information from the picture to support the text. Identify the person and make inferences about her body language. Your student may wonder why "she doesn't have legs;" explain that her body is behind the desk and that only part of her is showing.	Girl, seated at a desk  Table	Stencil G-1a and G-1b Fun Foam, flesh color Adhesive-back felt Yarn Black Puff Paint  Vinyl tile: approx. 1.5" x 5" piece (cut with scissors.)	Trace G-1a onto the Fun Foam and cut. Trace G-1b onto the felt and cut. Add and small piece for the nose. Loop the yarn to make a mass of "hair" and glue it to the back of the Fun-Foam head.  Then, cut the felt shape (shirt) along the dotted lines shown on the stencil: apply the cuttings to make cuffs and a collar.  Align the felt shirt with the figure and apply. Stick the vinyl tile piece to the page, above the text, and glue the figure above it. The bottom of the figure's shirt should meet the top of the vinyl piece and both of the figure's elbows should overlap the vinyl.  Add a mouth and eyes with Slick Paint.	



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3	Explore and discuss information from the picture to support the text.	Plants  Spring flowers	Dry craft moss  Several artificial flowers, small  Artificial leaves, small	Glue a thin layer of craft moss to the page, covering approximately 1/3 of the page.  Arrange the flowers and leaves on top of the moss and attach, using lots of hot glue.	
4	Picture supports the text. Notice that these frogs are viewed from a different angle than the frog on the cover. Discuss that different viewing points offer different information. In this case, only one side of each frog is visible.	Two frogs, facing  Moss  Water	Stencils F-2a, F-2b, and F-2c Fun Foam, green Black Puff Paint 2 small round beads  Blue Puff Paint Dry craft moss	Trace F-2a onto the Fun Foam using one side of the stencil, and again using the other side of the stencil. Do the same with 2b and 2c.  You should have two sets of each piece, reverse. Follow the steps below for both sets. F-2b: fold and glue part (B) overlapping (A); part (C) under (B). Glue onto the back of the frog's body. Then, glue part 2c <b>beneath</b> the frog's body, in front of the other foreleg. Cut along the inside line of the elbow; glue it slightly overlapping the body. Glue the round beads on top of the frog's head with green hot glue. Use enough glue so that a ring forms around each bead.  Glue the completed frogs to the page	



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				facing each other. Add tufts of craft moss with generous hot glue (clear) and draw wavy lines below and around the frogs and moss with blue Slick Paint.	
5	Picture supports the text.	Water Bucket Girl's arm	Stencils H-2a and H-2b Fun Foam, flesh color Adhesive-back felt  Blue Puff Paint  Large, tapered bottle top OR small plastic cup, cut in half (bucket).	Trace H-2a on the Fun Foam and cut. Trace H-2b on felt and cut. After removing the paper backing of the felt, pinch 2-3 slight folds along the dotted lines shown on stencil H-1b. Align the felt (sleeve) with the Fun Foam (arm) so that the folded end of the sleeve comes to the elbow, and both pieces meet at the shoulder. Glue the hand (excluding thumb) around the edge of the bucket. Glue arm and bucket to the page, aligning the shoulder with the binding. Use hot glue for the arm and Household Goop for the bucket to be sure that it is well attached. With blue Puff Paint, draw wavy lines across the bottom of the page that meet the lower lip of bucket.	
6	Picture supports the text.	Fish tank Moss Bucket Water	Stencil for "fish tank" 1 sheet of stiff vinyl 4" Black or silver electrical tape, cut in half lengthwise  Vinyl tile: approx. 1.5" x 5" piece (cut with scissors.)  Dry craft moss Blue Puff Paint  Large, tapered bottle top OR small plastic cup, cut in half	Trace the Fish Tank stencil onto the vinyl (start at the edge to conserve the material). Cut it out. With a utility knife and a ruler, score along the dotted lines shown on the stencil. Fold and glue the sides and bottom. Attach the tape along the top edge of the tank so that 1/2 the width of the tape overhangs; fold tape over the edge of the tank.  Fold tabs (A), (B), and (C). These will be used to glue the tank to the page.  Attach the piece of tile to the center of	 water in a fish tank.



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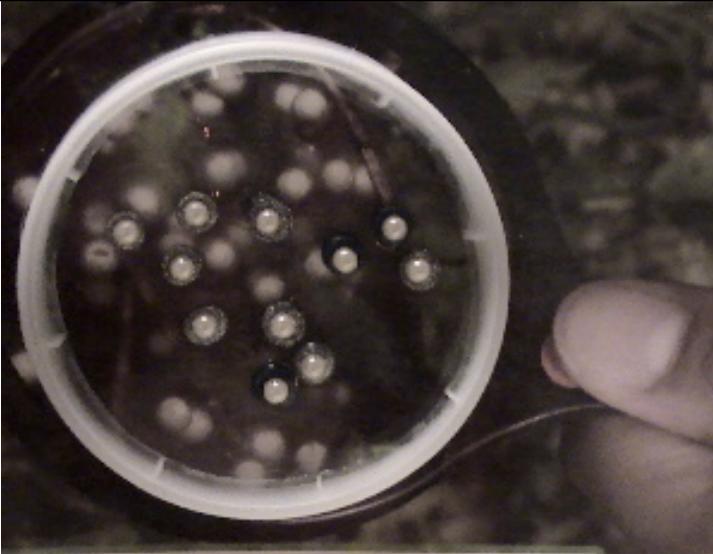
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			small plastic cup, cut in half (bucket)	<p>the page. With generous hot glue, glue the tank above the tile. Apply some hot glue to a tuft of craft moss and carefully attach it to the page, inside the tank.</p> <p>With Household Goop, glue the bucket at an angle above the tank. Using blue Puff Paint, draw wavy lines descending from the mouth of the bucket into the tank. Reinforce with strips of packing tape.</p>	
7	Picture supports the text.	<p>Girl, waiting</p> <p>Table</p>	See page 2.	See page 2.	
8	Introduce a new stage of the life cycle.	Frog eggs-small	<p>Small round beads, white or pearl</p> <p>Hot glue</p>	Glue 10-15 beads to the page in clusters, covering each one with a thin layer of hot glue.	



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9	<p>Your student might notice that these eggs are slightly larger. If not, point out this fact and compare them with the previous page. Help your student identify the ring as the frame of a magnifier (low-vision students may be familiar with magnifiers. If your student is not, explain briefly what they are and how they work. Point out that they make objects <b>look</b> bigger, but do not actually make objects bigger.)</p>	<p>Frog eggs, magnified</p> <p>"Magnifier" frame</p>	<p>Medium round beads, white or pearl</p> <p>Hot glue</p> <p>Round plastic container lid</p>	<p>With scissors, cut out and discard the center of the lid. Glue the raised frame of the lid to the center of the page. If the plastic is thick, you may want to use Household goop instead of hot glue.</p> <p>Glue 10-15 beads within the lid-frame, covering each one with a thin layer of hot glue.</p>	
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10	Picture supports the text. Introduce a new stage of the life cycle.	1 Tadpole	<p>Stencils T-1a and T-1b          Fun Foam, green          Thin green material (see the Materials List below for details)            Green hot glue            1 small round bead</p>	<p>Trace stencil T-1a onto Fun Foam and cut.            Trace T-1b onto the thin green material and cut. T-1b is the outer edge of the tadpole's tail; glue it beneath the tail on piece 1a so that it sticks out on the top and bottom.            Glue the round bead in the center of the tadpole's head with green hot glue. Use enough that a ring of glue forms around the bead.          Attach the tadpole to the center of the page.</p>	
11	Explore the picture. Compare with the picture on page 7.	<p>Girl, waiting          Table          Fish tank w/moss            Small tadpole</p>	<p>Stencils G-2a and G-2b          Fun Foam, flesh color          Adhesive-back felt          Yarn          Black Puff Paint            Stencil for "fish tank"          1 sheet of stiff vinyl          4" Black or silver electrical tape, cut in half lengthwise            Vinyl tile: approx. 1.5" x 5" piece (cut with scissors.)          Dry craft moss</p>	<p>Trace G-2a onto the Fun Foam and cut.          Trace G-2b onto the felt and cut. Add and small piece for the nose. Loop the yarn to make a mass of "hair" and glue it to the back of the Fun-Foam head.            Then, cut the felt shape (shirt) along the dotted lines shown on the stencil: apply the cuttings to make cuffs and a collar.          Align the felt shirt with the figure and apply.          Create the fish tank as on page 6.          Apply the vinyl tile to bottom of the page.            Glue the fish tank and moss above the tile (as on page 6) and glue the girl beside the table and tank, on the right. Use a very small scrap of green Fun Foam, about 1/4" long, to represent a tadpole. Glue it carefully to the page inside the tank.</p>	



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12	Picture supports the text.	2 Tadpoles w/ legs (background; foreground)  Waterline	Stencils T-1a and T-1b Stencils T-2a and T-2b Fun Foam, green Thin green material (see the Materials List below for details) Green hot glue  2 small round beads  Blue Puff Paint	Create Tadpole T-1 as on page 10. Using stencils T-2a and T-2b, make a smaller tadpole the same way. Glue these to the page.  With the green hot glue, carefully draw two small legs on each tadpole, as in the photograph, where the tadpole's body joins the tail.  At the top of the page below the text, draw a wavy waterline with the blue Slick Paint.	
13	Discuss information that is not included in the text, such as the character's expression and body language. How might the character be feeling in this picture? Compare with the pictures on page 7 and 11.	Girl, waiting (thumbs-up)  Table  Fish tank w/moss, tadpole	Stencils G-3a and G-2b Fun Foam, flesh color Adhesive-back felt Yarn Black Puff Paint Stencil F-3a and F-3b Fun Foam, green  Stencil for "fish tank" 1 sheet of stiff vinyl 4" Black or silver electrical tape, cut in half lengthwise  Vinyl tile: approx. 1.5" x 5" piece (cut with scissors.) Dry craft moss	Assemble and affix the page as on page 11: the table, fish tank, and moss.  Trace G-3a onto Fun Foam and cut out. Trace G-2b onto adhesive-back felt and cut.  Assemble the figure as on previous pages.  Glue the figure to the page to the right of the table and tank. Her elbow can overlap the table.  Trace F-3a and F-3b onto green Fun Foam and cut. Glue 3b over 3a; this is the frog's back leg in profile. Glue this frog inside the tank above the moss.	



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14	Picture supports the text.	Tadpole w/ four legs and a tail	Stencils T-3a, T-3b, T-3c and T-3d Fun Foam, green Thin green material  Green hot glue 1 small round bead	Trace T-3a, F-2b and F-2c onto Fun Foam. Assemble as on page 4. Trace T-3b onto thin green material and cut. Glue this behind the tail so that it sticks out on the top and bottom. With green hot glue, glue the bead at the top of the tadpole's head. Allow a ring of glue to form around the bead.	
15	Picture supports the text and reaffirms the representation of an adult frog. Notice that here, the frog is again viewed from the top.	Frog, top view	See front cover.	See front cover.	



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16	When pictured together, remember that the frog is much smaller than the girl.	<p>Girl</p> <p>Frog (small: in her hand)</p>	<p>G-1a and G-1b          Fun Foam, flesh color          Adhesive-back felt          Yarn          Black Puff Paint</p> <p>Stencil F-3a and F-3b          Fun Foam, green</p>	<p>Trace G-1a onto fun Foam in reverse and cut. Trace G-1b onto felt in reverse and cut. Assemble the figure as on previous pages.</p> <p>Trace F-3a and F-3b onto green Fun Foam and cut. Assemble as on page 13.</p> <p>Glue the figure to the page above the text. Glue the small frog above the palm of her raised hand.</p>	
17	Discuss the idea of a "thought" or "imagination" bubble. You are seeing what the character is thinking.	<p>Girl's head</p> <p>Imagination bubble</p> <p>Frog jumping</p>	<p>G-4a and G-4b          Fun Foam, flesh color          Adhesive-back felt          Yarn          Black Puff Paint</p> <p>Stencil F-4          Fun Foam, green</p>	<p>Trace G-4a onto Fun Foam and cut. Trace G-4b onto felt and cut. Assemble figure as on previous pages.</p> <p>Glue figure approximately in the center of the page below the text.</p> <p>Trace F-4 on green Fun Foam. Glue to the page above her head, leaving at least 1" of space around it on all sides to draw the "imagination bubble" with black Slick Paint.</p>	



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<p>18</p>	<p>Picture supports the text. Notice that the action matches the thought in the previous picture.</p>	<p>Girl's palm Frog jumping Water</p>	<p>Stencils H-1 Fun Foam, flesh color  Stencil F-5a and F-5b Fun Foam, green 1 small round bead Green hot glue  Blue Slick Paint</p>	<p>Trace H-1 onto Fun Foam <b>in reverse</b>. Also cut along the inside lines: between the fingers and across the palm, from the thumb. Glue the lower part of the hand (thumb side) slightly overlapping the palm.  Glue the hand to left side of the page. Trace F-5a and F-5b onto green Fun Foam.  Glue the frog's body in the upper right side of the page. Glue the frog's leg to the page, overlapping the back of the frog's body. Attach the bead to the frog's head with green hot glue.  In the lower right corner of the page, draw wavy lines of water with the Blue Slick Paint.</p>	
<p>19</p>	<p>Reinforce this stage of the life cycle and its distinguishing features.</p>	<p>Plants/moss Spring flowers</p>	<p>See page 3.</p>	<p>See page 3.</p>	



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20	Reinforce this stage of the life cycle and its distinguishing features.	Two frogs, facing	See page 4.	See page 4.	
21	Reinforce this stage of the life cycle and its distinguishing features.	Frog eggs	See page 8.	See page 8.	



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22	Reinforce this stage of the life cycle and its distinguishing features.	1 Tadpole	See page 10.	See page 10.	
23	Reinforce this stage of the life cycle and its distinguishing features.	1 Adult frog	See front cover.	See front cover.	

