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## Grasshopper Speaks Up

Grasshopper enjoys playing with his friends, Cricket and Frog. One day, he learns they are both sick. What happened, and can Grasshopper help them get better?







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Grasshopper Speaks Up  
Kong Sok Keng

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# Let's Read



**The Asia Foundation**



Grasshopper, Frog, and Cricket love to run and play in the green meadow every day.



One day, Grasshopper's friends are not feeling well and decide to stay home. Grasshopper does not think it is a big deal. He runs outside to play anyway.





But the next day, Grasshopper's friends are not in the meadow again. He looks everywhere for them, but they are nowhere to be found. Grasshopper decides to fly home alone.



On the way, he sees Cricket spraying chemicals on plants that are being grown for food. There are containers of empty chemicals floating in the river nearby.



Grasshopper thinks about stopping to greet his friend. But he is still upset that Cricket did not come to play, so he flies on.



A few days later, Cricket stops by to see Grasshopper. "Where have you been?" Grasshopper asks. "Why haven't you come to the meadow to play?" "Oh, I have a terrible stomachache and a headache. I can barely walk," Cricket says, moaning.



Grasshopper is worried for his friend. "You may have eaten something poisonous. Let's go to the doctor." Grasshopper helps his friend walk. But when they come to the river, Cricket is too weak to fly across. Grasshopper finds a stick to make a bridge. Cricket begins to walk across but slips!



"Help! I'm going to fall into the water!" Cricket cries. Grasshopper grabs hold of the stick to try to save Cricket. "Hang on!" he shouts.



Cricket slips down the stick further. "I can't hold on for long."  
Grasshopper encourages Cricket to be strong. "Don't let go! There is something in the water below that might bite you."



Suddenly, the stick breaks! Grasshopper and Cricket fall down into the water. A giant frog leaps up, ready to swallow them both.





Just in time, Grasshopper shouts, "Stop, Frog! It is us, your friends!" Grasshopper and Cricket crawl onto a nearby lily pad.



"Oh, I did not realize it was you!" Frog says. "I have not been able to see well lately. What are you doing here?" Grasshopper replies, "We are going to the doctor. Cricket is very sick."



"Maybe I should come too," Frog says. "My eyes are bothering me, and my skin has a strange rash."



Grasshopper thinks he knows what is going on. He decides it is time to speak up. "Cricket, I am afraid the chemicals you sprayed on the plants are unhealthy for your food. And the containers that were dumped in the water have hurt Frog's eyes and skin." Cricket feels terrible for having caused so much trouble. "It's okay, Cricket," Frog says with a smile. "We will make it right. But first let's get to the doctor so we will all feel better!"



Once he is healthy again, Cricket cleans up the garbage and waste from the water. He learns new ways to care for his plants that do not use harmful chemicals.





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INTERNATIONAL**

More About the Environment Conservation International (CI) works with local communities and primary schools near the Pursat River and Tonle Sap Lake to raise awareness about environmental issues. CI provides information on waste control, pesticide use, wildlife protection, and environmental education so that communities can care for and use these valuable local water resources. For more information: <https://www.conservaion.org/projects/Pages/tonle-sap-lake-conserving-cambodia-fish-factory-mekong.aspx> Additional environmental information provided by Conservation International in collaboration with the Asia Foundation.



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