Why Frog is So Ugly
Mozambican folktale
English
Many years ago, the Lizard and the Frog were friends. One day they decided to look for girlfriends in the city.
The Frog was jealous of the Lizard's shining and brilliant skin.
He said: What did you do to look so beautiful? Look at me, I am so ugly. What can I do about my skin?
The Lizard said:
Listen! Put some water in a pot and put it on the fire.
Next you...
But the Frog said: I know already, I know. Shut up, my friend. And he left.
So he arrived home and put some water in a pot.
When the water began to boil, he threw himself into it.
and his skin was burnt
and his tail came off!
And instead of being brilliant and beautiful like the Lizard, he was even more ugly!
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Writer: Mozambican folktale
Illustration: Hélder de Paz Alexandre
Language: English

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This story was written down in 2013 by students at Universidade Pedagógica-Maxixe, Mozambique, from their memory of what was told at home, and edited by their English teacher, Ingrid Schechter.