

OUTLINE AND SYNOPSIS

Overture and Dance of the Toads

THE TOAD, MOTHER-TOAD, STEPSISTER TOADS

Deep in a well, a Mother-Toad tells her children that one of them has a jewel in their eyes. The Toad wonders if she is the special one, and she dreams of exploring the world outside the well. She peers at her reflection in the water but doesn't see a jewel.

Escape from the Well

THE TOAD, THE FARMER BOY

A water pail descends to the Toads, and The Toad, after being insulted by her Stepsister Toads, steps into the pail. The Toad is drawn up to the surface. The Farmer Boy, expecting a pail of water, is disgusted and chases The Toad away.

Dance of the Geese

GEESE

The Toad is drying out in the hot afternoon sun. She finds a pond, where a flock of Geese are swimming. Their dance begins in the water, then moves out to land where they trip over and bump into each other. The Toad asks them if they see a jewel in her eyes, and they say no.

Dance of the distant Snake

THE SNAKE

A snake appears in the distance looking hungrily toward the Toad and the Geese. After its dance, the Geese warn The Toad to stay far away from the Snake, or it might become a meal. The Geese lead The Toad away from the snake, toward the Farmhouse.

Dance of the Night-Blooming Flowers

NIGHT-BLOOMING FLOWERS, FIREFLIES

Night falls, and the frog climbs into a flowerbed to sleep. The Night-Blooming Flowers awaken and dance with the Fireflies.

Appearance of the Caterpillar

GEESE, THE CATERPILLAR/BUTTERFLY

As The Toad marvels at the sights of the garden, The Caterpillar appears, partially in a cocoon. The Geese peck at the caterpillar, which wriggles to safety as The Toad distracts them with a joke.

Dance of the Storks

THE STORK, STORK FAMILY

The Stork shouts down from the roof of the farmhouse that everyone should be careful not to attract the attention of The Snake. Then, she and her beautiful Stork Family dance. The Toad admires them for their beautiful flight, wishing she could fly ever higher like them.

The Snake's Pursuit

THE SNAKE

The Snake appears and hungrily pursues the Geese and the Caterpillar. The Toad cleverly ties The Snake's tail to a tree.

Dance of the Butterfly

THE CATERPILLAR/BUTTERFLY

Pleased to still be alive, The Caterpillar disappears into its cocoon and reappears as a beautiful Butterfly. It flies away, and The Toad wishes she could also fly.

Final Dance

THE STORK, THE TOAD, THE CATERPILLAR/BUTTERFLY, GEESE, FIREFLIES

The Stork offers to take The Toad for a ride. As they fly toward the Sun, The Toad realizes that the jewel inside her has been her ambition to explore the world around her. She is joined in a dance by the other flying animals, as the music reaches a thrilling climax.