

Film Title and Release Date: *Frog Dreaming* (1986)  
Length of Film in Minutes: 93 minutes  
Film Genre: Adventure/Family

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen V., 9th Grade**

**Date Reviewed: August 3, 2020**

Frog Dreaming is an Australian children classic film. It describes the story about a group of inquisitive and curious young friends who discover a mysterious underwater legend in the Australian bush. This legend ultimately leads them on a strange adventure into a world far different from their own. Cody, a member of the friend group, is a resourceful American orphan living in rural Australia who finds himself caught up in the magic of a local Aboriginal myth that might be closer to reality than people originally thought it to be. He is very imaginative, inventive, and inquisitive. One dull day, he takes his two friends, Wendy and Jane, to venture into Devil's Knob national park. The park is said to be full of "frog dreamings, like sacred sites". There they stumble on a pond that is haunted by a monster, which Cody says is alluded to in local Indigenous stories. The film then, with an unexpected depth, offers quite a remarkable scene where the audience senses that there really is a "Dreaming". The discovery is seen through Cody's eyes because it takes a curious kid who hasn't yet been introduced to the real life of adulthood. Every frame of this film is packed with madness and love, as well as a strong sense of teen injustice. It portrays the challenge of feeling like the adults are the ones in control of the lives of the kids, leaving them to lie and sneak around just to have fun. Overall, this is a very cool, overlooked piece of fantasy film-making.

*How did you find the film on Kanopy (by a title search, subject search, casual browsing)?*

I found this film on Kanopy while casually browsing through the many films it offers.

*Did the plot (for a fictional movie) keep you interested?*

Yes, the plot kept me interested in how young friends discover a mysterious underwater legend in the Australian bush which leads them on a strange adventure into a different world. It shows the imagination of kids and how important friendship and an escape from reality can be.

*Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*

The pace of this film was just right and successfully told the story of fond friends that got into an adventure of a lifetime.

*What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?*

I believe this film is great for grades six and up due to its somewhat complex and very interesting and vivid adventure.

*5 stars: I'm really glad I watched this film; it was awesome!*

I believe this film deserves 5 stars because it tells a heartwarming story of friends who go on a mysterious adventure of a lifetime that they'd never dream of going on. The plot of this movie keeps the audience interested and engaged with what happens to the characters and how they develop throughout the movie. I would also recommend this movie to children because it explores the feeling of feeling trapped and controlled by adults, and how having an adventure can open your eyes to what the world has to offer.