

JUNIOR ESSAY – FOURTH PLACE

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MY FRIEND WAFFLES

Every evening I hear my friends sing around my family outdoor fountain. They chirp, they hop, and they eat bugs to fill their fat tummies. They are not just any friends they are my American green tree frog friends. They are usually green in color and have smooth skin. They like to eat mosquitos, flies, and other small insects. The male frogs are trying to chirp the loudest to attract the female frogs. That's why I hear my friends sing the loudest at nighttime.

Once the male frog attracts a female frog they mate together. The female frog can lie up to 400 eggs. The eggs hatch usually between 4 to 14 days. These American tree frogs can be found not just in my backyard, but in many states in the south from Texas to Virginia. When I go to summer camp in East Texas I hear my same friends chirp at nighttime around the camp pond.

Back at home I try to find my friends in the bushes around my fountain. They try to hop away from me when I get close to them. I am not trying to hurt them and only want them to know they are my friends. I named one of my friends Waffles because he was really fat and cute.

When I am in my bed at night I think my American green tree frog friends are singing me to sleep. I love to lie in bed and listen to them chirp. They help put me to sleep at night. Maybe one day my mom will let me bring Waffles into the home and let it be the family pet, but I am afraid my dog would eat Waffles. So for now, I will only enjoy their singing outside around the family fountain at nighttime.