

**It • Its • It's**  
By Carole L. Cooney

**Definitions**

**It:** that one  
**Its:** relating to itself  
**It's:** it is

**Who is it?**  
The thorn stuck in its paw.  
See if it's the right book, please.

**Setting:** A village in Africa

**Characters:**

Narrator  
Montsho  
Hasina, daughter  
Frog

**Narrator:** Once there was an African tribesman named Amadi, who married a beautiful young woman named Monifa. They had one daughter named Hasina. One day, Monifa suddenly died. A short time passed and Amadi married a lovely woman named Montsho. Amadi spent most of his time away from the family hunting. While he was gone, Montsho treated Hasina in a very demanding way.

**Montsho:** Hasina, go fetch some wood. Then pound the wheat. It must be powdery! Then grind the corn. It must be smooth! Then cook it carefully. It must be stirred! Go! Do as I say!

**Hasina:** Yes, Step-Mother Montsho. It's such a hot day; may I wear the head covering that belonged to my mother?

**Montsho:** Wear *that rag*? No! Our whole tribe will be embarrassed by its design. Be gone!

**Narrator:** Hasina sadly walked through the dark woods gathering fire wood when she saw a shimmer in a nearby pond. She walked over to see what it was.

**Hasina:** (thinking) What is it? (calling) Hello! Is someone there?

**Frog:** Yes, Hasina! Ribbit! Ribbit! I've been watching you day after day doing such hard work. I've been wanting to thank you for the food scraps you bring each day. Ribbit! Ribbit!

**Hasina:** Oh! That's nothing. I *have* to throw the scraps away and this seemed the best place.

**Frog:** Indeed! My family is very healthy! Ribbit! Ribbit! Now what can *I* do for *you*?

**Hasina:** What can you do for *me*? Oh my, it's such surprise for someone to ask what *they can do for me*.

**Frog:** Please know that I can give you many things. What would you like? Ribbit!

**Narrator:** Hasina thought and thought. She was afraid to ask for something. Then a smile appeared on her face.

**Hasina:** There is a Festival tomorrow and I would like to go, but I have no party clothes to wear to it. Can you help me?

**Frog:** Of course. It will be my pleasure. Ribbit! Ribbit! Come tomorrow morning to the pond and I shall have many lovely things for you. Ribbit! Ribbit!

**Narrator:** Slowly Hasina walked away shaking her head in disbelief. When she arrived home, Montsho was very upset.

**Montsho:** Have you finally come home? Where have you been? Oh! Don't answer because I have no time to listen to your stories. Tomorrow is the Festival and I shall be leaving early in the morning to go with my friends. YOU must fetch the wood. Then pound the wheat. It must be powdery! Then grind the corn. It must be smooth! Then cook it carefully. It must be stirred! Do as I say!

**Narrator:** The next morning, Hasina was not able to go to the pond early, because she had so many chores to do. It was very late in the afternoon when she arrived at the pond. The frog was hopping around waiting for her.

**Frog:** I know! I know! It was your Stepmother that made you do *so many chores*. Well, we'd better hurry or the Festival will be over before you ever get there.

**Narrator:** The Frog jumped onto a lily pad. It tipped up its leaf and out popped a dress.

**Hasina:** Oh! A beautiful party dress. And it's the color of the sky.

**Frog:** Quickly put on the dress, Hasina! (He then jumped on another lily pad and...)

*What happened next?*

Using as many definitions of it, its, it's as you can, end the play.