

## LES DEUX TAUREAUX ET UNE GRENOÛILLE: UNE LECTURE

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This presentation seeks to provide a reading of La Fontaine's fable, *Les Deux Taureaux et une Grenouille*. The fable starts with an engraving that shows the characters involved: two bulls fighting, a heifer grazing behind them and some frogs jumping in and out of a pond. The first two verses explain that the bulls are fighting for the possession of the heifer along with its empire. One of the frogs from the pond complains about the fight to another and predicts the future of its population. She explains that the defeated bull will eventually leave its field, will be forced to stay near the pond and will trample all the frogs to death. The general message that La Fontaine delivers to his audience is that the poor and the weak always suffer for the follies of the powerful. This fable targets La Guerre Dévolution where the two bulls and the heifer make allusion to Louis XIV, Charles II d'Espagne and Marie-Thérèse d'Autriche respectively. It can also be inferred that the fabulist has been inspired by Phèdre's *Les Grenouilles Redoutant un Combat de Taureaux*. This presentation will also touch on the writing style of La Fontaine: his use of verb tenses, consonants for sonority and lexicon.