

A fable is a very short story which promises to illustrate or teach us a lesson which is also called a moral. Usually if not always, fables are stories having animal characters that talk like humans.

Many common sayings come from Aesop's Fables like "Honesty is the best policy," and "Look before you leap" are familiar examples of fables. Aesop is believed to have been a Greek slave who made up these stories. Nobody is really sure if Aesop made up these fables. What is certain, however, is that the Aesop's Fables are timeless. They are so wonderful that they have been told over and over again for several thousand years. Here are some of the most popular fables of all times I hope you like them. Enjoy!

ACTIVITIES

Choose Some of the following activities once you have read a fable

Reading Response

- 1.) What is the author trying to have the reader learn from reading the fable or fairy-tale?
- 2.) Draw a picture of what you read
- 3.) Who were the main characters in the story?
- 4.) Where did the story take place?
- 5.) Can you make any connections to yourself from the text?
- 6.) Can you think of any movies or tv shows that are similar to this story?
- 7.) Have you ever read anything else similar to the fable/ fairy-tale?

Writing

- Choose one of the fables or fairy tales that you read and re-write it so that it has a different ending
- Choose one of the fables or fairy tales and write a story about what would happen the next day after the story ended.
- Choose one of the fairy tales or fables and write a story that is from the perspective of one of the other characters in the story.
- Choose a fable or fairy tale and add yourself to the story as a different character.

Write your own fable consider the following criteria:

- 1.) Has a lesson or moral that a character learns
- 2.) Has a simple problem and solution
- 3.) Includes animal characters acting like humans

The Ant and the Grasshopper

On one fine summer's day in a field a Grasshopper was hopping about in a musical mood. An ant passed by bearing along with great toil an ear of corn



he was taking to the nest.

The grasshopper invited the ant to sit for a chat with him. But the ant refused saying that "I'm storing up food for winter". "Why don't you do the same?" asked the ant to the grasshopper.



"Pooh! Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; we have got enough food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil.

Finally, when winter came, the Grasshopper found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing corn and grain from their storage.

Then the Grasshopper understood that...

It is best to prepare for the days of necessity.

The Tortoise and the Hare



The hare was once boasting of his speed before the other animals. "I have never yet been beaten," said he, "when I put forth my full speed. I challenge anyone here to race with me."

The tortoise said quietly, "I accept your challenge."

"That is a good joke," said the hare. "I could dance around you all the way."



"Keep your boasting until you've beaten," answered the tortoise. "Shall we race?"

So a course was fixed and a start was made. The hare darted almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, to show his contempt for the tortoise, lay down to have a nap. The tortoise plodded on and plodded on, and when the hare awoke from his nap, he saw the tortoise nearing the finish line, and he could not catch up in time to save the race.

Plodding wins the race.

The Fox and The Grapes

Long long ago there lived a fox who loved to eat. He lived close to a vineyard and he used to stare at the lovely grapes that hung there.

"How juice they look. Oh I am sure these are stuff that melts in the mouth when you have them. If only I could reach them".



One sunny day, the fox woke up and saw the grapes glistening by the sunlight. The vineyard looked heavenly and the grapes looked so luscious that the famished fox could no longer control itself. He jumped to reach them but fell down.

He jumped again. No, they were much higher.

He jumped even more. But they were still out of reach.

He jumped and stretched and hopped but to no avail. Those yummy grapes hung higher than the fox could reach. No matter how hard he tried, the fox could not reach the grapes. He panted and began to sweat out of exhaustion.

Giving up finally, he looked up in contempt and said as he walked away, "Those grapes surely must be sour. I wouldn't eat them even if they were served to me on a golden dish."

It's easy to despise what you cannot have.

The Classic Friendship Story of the Lion and the Mouse

Once in a dense jungle far far away there lived a mighty lion whom all the other creatures used to fear very much. King of the jungle as he was, the terrible beast knew no fear and he loved the respect he received from all and sundry in the forest. He used to spend half his day in hunting and the other half in sleeping. No creature dared to come near his den at any time of the day, especially when he was asleep for the mighty beast got terribly angry if his sleep was disturbed in any way.



But one day it so happened that a little mouse got curious to see how the lion's den looked like. So he set out for the cave where the lion rested. When he got near, he could not see the lion.

"He has gone somewhere. Is he going to come back soon? Nah...I don't think so." thought the mouse. It ran and sneaked into the cave. It was a dark, desolate place but big enough for the lion to live. The mouse felt small and a little afraid when he saw the large footprints of the lion on the ground.

"Maybe I should turn back." thought he.

Just then he heard the sound of the footsteps of the lion.

"Oh no, he is coming back. Now what do I do?" the mouse trembled anxiously.

The lion had only gone to quench his thirst from a river close by and he was coming back to take rest.

The mouse hid himself in the dark inside of the cave and saw the huge shadow of the lion falling on the floors. The lion sat near the entrance of the cave and rested his head on his huge paws. Soon he was fast asleep. The whole cave seemed to tremble with the loud snoring of the jungle king.

The mouse tried to creep out as stealthily as he could. Soon he was near the entrance. But as he tried to cross the lion, his little tail grazed against the left paw of the beast and the lord of the jungle woke up with a start. Imagine his anger and the roar he gave when he saw the puny mouse in his den.

The frightened mouse lost his mind and began to run up and down upon the lion. The lion placed his huge paw upon its tail and opened his big jaws to swallow the mouse when the latter cried out,

"Pardon, O King, please forgive me. I did not mean to wake you, I was only trying to leave this cave which I had entered out of curiosity. Kindly let me go this time, I shall never forget your nobility: if destiny gives me a chance I will assist you in whichever way I can on one of your bad days."

The lion was amused at this thought. How can the little mouse help him? But he let him go and roared with laughter. The mouse ran for his life, thanking his stars.

A few days, as the lion was prowling majestically through the jungle, it was suddenly caught in a hunter's snare. He struggled furiously to break free. But for all his efforts, he only found himself getting even more entangled in the net of ropes. He roared out of anger and helplessness. The whole jungle began to shake due to the terrible sound and every animal heard the cries of the beast. The mouse heard it too.

"The lord of the jungle is in trouble." thought the mouse. "It is my chance to be of help to him now".

Thinking so, the mouse ran as fast as he could to the place where the sounds were coming from. Soon he found the lion trapped in the hunter's snare.

"Don't move, Your Majesty, I'll cut your ropes and you will soon be free" squeaked the mouse. Without wasting a second, he began nibbling through the ropes with his sharp little teeth. Very soon the lion was free.

"I did not believe that even you could help me. But I was wrong" said the

lion humbly. And the two creatures became the best of friends from that day.

No matter how weak and small a creature is, he may be of help if time comes.

The Lion's Share

One day, a lion, a fox, a jackal, and a wolf went hunting together. All day long they tried hard, but could not find anything satisfactory. It was only in the late afternoon that they could catch a deer. The four beasts surrounded the poor animal and killed it as fast as they could. Then they decided to share their food.

The lion was the lord of the jungle and superior to all in strength. Hence, the other creatures agreed when he proposed to share the food for all.

Placing one of its paws upon the dead animal, the lion said,

"You see, as a member of the hunting party, it is my right to receive one of these portions."

The others nodded in agreement.

"But then, I am also the King of Beasts. So I must receive a little bit more". he declared.

The others looked uneasily at each other.

"And besides, I was leading the hunt. So I deserve a little more extra". he proclaimed.

The others mumbled something, but it could not be heard.

"As for the fourth share, if you wish to argue with me about its ownership, let's begin, and we will see who will get it."

"Humph," the others grumbled. They walked away with their heads down. They knew it was pointless to argue about their shares.

You may share the labours of the great, but you cannot share the spoil.

The Earthen Pot and The Brass Pot

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful stream that flowed by a stony hill. A small village stood by this stream and the people of this hamlet used its water for their daily needs.

One day, two women started to gossip and forgetful of their belongings, both of them left their pots by the stream. One of the pots was of brass, another of earthenware.

When the tide rose, the swollen waters carried off both the pots downstream. The earthenware pot struggled to keep itself away from the brass one. Seeing this, the brass pot called out to the earthen pot:

"Why are you afraid, my friend? I will not strike you."

The earthen pot replied, "That is all right. But if I come too close to you, I will break. You are too tough and I am so weak.

Whether I hit you, or you hit me, I shall be the one to suffer for it."

The strong and the weak cannot keep company.

The Man and the Serpent

Years ago, there was a small village by a beautiful river. The people of this village were mainly poor folks who farmed in others' lands or in whatever land each of them had themselves. Among them was a man who was richer than the others. He had more land than the others, ten cows, twelve sheep and a little orchard. He had a loving wife and three sons to look after him.

But he was always worried about his youngest son, who happened to be naughtier than his siblings, and was always full of mischief. This boy seemed to be full of an inexhaustible supply of energy and was always out of the house, roaming in the fields, jumping into ponds and climbing hills and mountains, whatever the time was.

But misfortune struck one day, when the boy mistakenly trod upon a serpent's tail during one of his adventures. The furious snake hissed and bit on his foot. The boy limped back to his parents, crying out of pain. But his helpless family members could do nothing to save the poor boy, for the lethal venom killed him within minutes. However, the boy informed his father about the whereabouts of the snake and how he had been bitten

before he took his last breath.

The incensed father took out his axe and hunted down the serpent, who happened to reside in a small hole beside a tree.

Again and again did his axe fall upon the serpent who somehow managed to escape each blow until one powerful stroke cut off part of its tail. Bleeding and crying out of pain, the snake carried its body with great difficulty and slithered into one of the holes between the roots of the huge tree.

"First they trampled my tail. Then they dared to cut it off?" muttered the creature painfully. It vowed revenge against the man.

Thereafter, the snake began to cause losses to the farmer. In a fit of rage, it began to sting several of the Farmer's cattle leading him to suffer a huge loss.

"I had already lost my son, now I have to see my cattle dying. It is best to reconcile with the serpent before it does any more harm to me or any of my family members." the man thought.

With this purpose, the farmer went to the serpent's lair with food and honey and offered him the treats saying,

"You know, we should let bygones be bygones. There was no enmity between us as such. So why don't we forget and forgive each other and be friends?"

"It can't be", replied the snake, "take your gifts away. Neither can you forgive me for the death of your son, nor can I forget the loss of my tail."

Injuries may be forgiven, but not forgotten.