

Aesop

encore



Séries A

The Ant and the Grasshopper

The Crow and the Pitcher

The Fox and the Crow

The Fox and the Grapes

The Hare and the Tortoise

ESL - present tense versions



Also available - Wanda's versions.

Wanda loves words! Sometimes she goes a bit overboard but she has a great time doing it. Her scripts add an element of linguistic “play” to the play.

Students will enjoy dressing up and playing the roles themselves or staying behind the scenes to present the stories with puppets.

The scripts can also be used as materials for:

- vocabulary extension
- studying common expressions / figures of speech
similies, metaphors
- devices -alliteration, personification, humour, exaggeration
- *over-use of clichés etc.*
- discussions/debates over the morals
- examples for student writing
(give students one of the simple ESL versions of a fable to compare to Wanda's version; then challenge students rewrite one of the other fables)
- integrate the fables into your music program by having students compose their own music for the chants, create theme melodies for each character or use orff instruments to create background music and sound effects for the play
- integrate the stories into a science study of insects etc. - how has Aesop drawn upon the true characteristics of the natural world for his stories ..

Note:

As with the original fables, the character's generic animal name becomes his personal name, therefore, the articles “a’ and “the” are not always used when the character is mentioned by the narrator or when he is addressed by another character.

e.g. NARRATOR: One day, *Grasshopper* was out for his usual hop

ANT: Not now *Grasshopper*. I have to collect

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THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER

NARRATOR

One day, the grasshopper meets the ant.

GRASSHOPPER

What a beautiful day! I love to jump and sing. He he he! Ho ho ho!

ANT

I carry wheat all day. I'm tired!

GRASSHOPPER

Why work? Sing with me!

ANT

I have to do this. It's for the winter!

GRASSHOPPER

That's a lot of work for nothing!

ANT

I must work.

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GRASSHOPPER

Boring!

NARRATOR

When winter comes. The ant is happy.

ANT

I have enough wheat. I can take it easy.

GRASSHOPPER

It's cold. Oh, poor me! Nothing to eat, nothing to drink. Good-bye!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: He who prepares lives.

(Prepare for days of necessity.)

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THE CROW AND THE PITCHER

NARRATOR

One summer day, the crow looks for something to drink.

CROW

It's hot! I'm thirsty! Aha! A pitcher of water!

NARRATOR

But there is only a little water in the pitcher.

CROW

My beak is too big! The pitcher is very narrow! Bah!

NARRATOR

Does the crow give up hope? No! He keeps on trying.

CROW

Aha! I have a good idea!

NARRATOR

One after the other, the crow drops many stones into the pitcher.

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CROW

One, two, three ...

NARRATOR

Plop, plop, plop. Little by little, the water rises in the pitcher.

CROW

I can drink as much as I want! Ah! It's cold and good!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: When you need something, you can find a way.

(Necessity is the mother of invention,)

Aesop encore - A

THE FOX AND THE CROW

NARRATOR

Here is a beautiful crow. She has a piece of cheese in her beak.

CROW

Mm mm mmm!

NARRATOR

She can't speak with a piece of cheese in her beak.

A fox enters.

NARRATOR

Here comes the fox. He is very smart.

FOX

What a lovely bird! What wonderful colours!
What feathers!

NARRATOR

The crow can't answer with a piece of cheese in her mouth.

CROW

Mmmm mmmm!

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FOX

Sing for me, O Queen of Birds!

NARRATOR

The crow is so flattered that she decides to sing for the fox.
She opens her beak!

CROW

Grak! Graaak! Grak! Oh no, I dropped the cheese!

FOX

Thank you for the cheese, madam. You have a voice; you
don't have any common sense. Mm! It's delicious!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: Don't get fooled by compliments.

(Flattery is often trickery.)

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THE FOX AND THE GRAPES

NARRATOR

Here comes the fox who is very hungry. He is looking for something to eat.

FOX

Aha! A bunch of grapes! There's my lunch!

NARRATOR

The grapes are high up in a tree. The fox jumps.

FOX

Drat! I'll try again.

NARRATOR

The fox jumps and jumps and jumps ... without success.

FOX

I'm tired out!

NARRATOR

He is so tired and weak that he can't jump any more.

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FOX

Those grapes are probably sour anyway. I'll look somewhere else.

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: It's easy to hate what you cannot get.

(It is easy to despise what you cannot get.)

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THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

NARRATOR

One day, the hare meets the tortoise.

HARE

You are so heavy and clumsy, Tortoise.

TORTOISE

Yes, but in a race, I am better.

HARE

Impossible! I'm the fastest animal in the forest.

TORTOISE

Maybe! Fox, you be the referee.

FOX

Okay!

NARRATOR

The fox is very amused. The two runners line up.

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FOX

One, two, three, go!

NARRATOR

In the middle of the race, the hare stops.

HARE

I can easily catch up to the tortoise.

NARRATOR

The tortoise walks on step by step without stopping.
The hare naps for a while and then wakes up.

HARE

Oh no, I'm behind. No problem! I'm fast!

NARRATOR

He runs as fast as he can.

FOX

Too late, Hare. Tortoise is already here!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: He who keeps going wins the race.

(Slow and steady wins the race.)