

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

Wanda's Versions



Teacher's Notes

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

Sun rises over stage
Ant enters slowly dragging food, Grasshopper bounds in behind him

NARRATOR

One day, Grasshopper was out for his usual hop, skip and jump across the grass when he met industrious Ant who was dragging a big hunk of wheat up the side of his anthill.

GRASSHOPPER

Hey there Ant, beautiful day, isn't it? It just makes me want to jump
and sing and play in the rays!

(sings) Every day
Is a day to play.
Life is fun
When you jump and run.

(sings again trying to get the Ant to dance with him)

ANT

(annoyed with Grasshopper)

I have to do my work first! After carrying food supplies all day, I'm too tired to play!

GRASSHOPPER

Oh c'mon, grumpy, lighten up! Why are you working so hard on such a beautiful day?
Remember the saying, "All work and no no play makes Jack a dull boy!"
Sing with me! Hop with me!

ANT

Not now Grasshopper. I have to collect this food. It's for winter!

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GRASSHOPPER

Winter! That's months away, you're doing all that work for nothing!

ANT

I know what I'm doing. Now is the time to get ready for the cold, frosty winter. You'll be sorry if you don't prepare. Now, leave me alone. I must get this work done today.

GRASSHOPPER

What a bore! You just have to learn to chill out and enjoy life, Ant.

(exits singing)

Every day

Is a day to play.

Life is fun

When you jump and run.

Sun goes down, clouds and snow flakes rise over stage

NARRATOR

With an icy blast of cold air, winter grips the land.

(Ant is seen in his home at one side of the stage with lots of food piled up)

Ant is happy, warm, cosy and safe in his home.

ANT

Ahh ... this is the life! I have enough to eat to last the whole winter.
Now I can put my feet up and take it easy. I wonder how that silly Grasshopper is doing
- hope he did a little work before it was too late.

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GRASSHOPPER

(sitting outside, shivering at the other side of the stage)

I -I- It's s-s-s-so cold! Poor me! Nothing to eat, nothing to drink.

Life just isn't fair!

(sings weakly) Every day

Is cold and gray.

No food, no sun,

I think I'm done!

Good-bye, cruel world! *(falls over right off the stage)*

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: He who prepares survives.

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THE CROW AND THE PITCHER

NARRATOR

One bright summer day, Crow was cruising around the neighbourhood searching for something to drink to sooth his parched throat.

CROW

Oh man, It's hot! I'm so thirsty, I can't even cac - caa -caw!
(caw catches in his throat)

Aha! What's that down there? At last, a pitcher of water!

NARRATOR

But when he lands beside the pitcher, poor, thirsty Crow discovers that there is only a small puddle of water at the bottom.

CROW

(grunts as he tries to get his beak into the opening of the pitcher)

Fooy! My beak is too big to get to the bottom. The pitcher is way too narrow!
Bah! Who would make a pitcher like that? A bird could die of thirst!

NARRATOR

Does Crow give up hope? No! He's tenacious and clever. He keeps on trying.

CROW

Hmmm what to do, what do do. *(paces back and forth)* Aha! I have a good idea!
(flits away and returns with pebbles)

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NARRATOR

One after the other, Crow drops many pebbles into the pitcher.

CROW

One, two, three ...

NARRATOR

Plop, plop, plop. With each pebble, the water rises little by little in the pitcher. Soon the water is within reach of Crow's anxious beak.

CROW

What a good idea if I do say so myself! I can drink as much as I want!
Ah! It's so refreshing! Now I can caw again. (*flies away cawing loudly*)

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: Necessity is the mother of invention,

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THE FOX AND THE CROW

NARRATOR

Beautiful ebony Crow glides down from the sky and perches on a branch of a sturdy tree. She is obviously enjoying the mouth-watering flavour of the piece of cheese she holds in her beak.

CROW

Mm mm mmm!

NARRATOR

Naturally, she was taught never to speak with her mouth full, so she doesn't greet Fox when he arrives to sit under her branch.

Fox enters.

NARRATOR

Before speaking to her, sly Fox watches Crow enjoying the morsel of cheese.

FOX

What a lovely bird! What amazing feathers!
They're so shiny they reflect the colours of the rainbow!

NARRATOR

Of course, Crow can't answer with her mouth full of cheese.

CROW

(Deliberately trying to make the fox jealous of her tasty treat)

Mmmm mmmm!

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FOX

Sing for me, O fabulous Queen of Birds!

NARRATOR

Crow is so flattered that she decides to sing for the Fox.
Foolishly, she opens her beak to sing for crafty Fox!

CROW

(Puffing up her chest and squawking)

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

FOX

Thank you for the cheese, madam. I will enjoy it immensely! You have a voice; you certainly don't have any common sense. *(Strolling off with the morsel of cheese)*
Mm! It's so delicious!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: Flattery is often trickery.

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THE FOX AND THE GRAPES

NARRATOR

One day, Fox, who was famished, was hunting around for something to eat.

FOX

(Spying a bunch of grapes hanging from a branch)

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

NARRATOR

Unfortunately, the grapes are beyond his reach high up in a tree.
Fox springs from the ground, but misses his juicy target.

FOX

Drat! I'll try again.

NARRATOR

Fox leaps several more times *(pause as fox leaps)* ... without success.

FOX

(Falling down on last jump)

That's it, I'm exhausted!

NARRATOR

He is so weary and weak that he has no energy left to jump any more.

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FOX

(Dragging himself off in defeat)

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

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: It is easy to despise what you cannot get.

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THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

NARRATOR

One day, the sluggish tortoise is out enjoying a leisurely stroll down the path when the haughty hare bounds up behind him and tries to get around.

HARE

Move along there, Tortoise. You are so heavy and clumsy!
You're blocking the path.

TORTOISE

I may be slow, but in a race, I could probably beat you.

HARE

Impossible! With my long hind legs, I'm the fastest animal in the forest.

TORTOISE

Perhaps! Let's find out. *(Fox wanders by)*
Fox, we're having a race. Will you be the referee?

FOX

Okay!

NARRATOR

Fox is very amused by the unlikely match-up. The two contestants line up.

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FOX

One, two, three, go!

NARRATOR

In the middle of the race, Hare sees a comfy tuft of grass by the side of the path and decides to take a short nap.

HARE

I'll just rest here a bit. I can easily catch up to pokey Tortoise.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, Tortoise plods on one little foot in front of the other without stopping. Hare snoozes for a while and then wakes up with a start.

HARE

Oh no, I'm behind. (*smugly*) No problem!
I'm so fast, I can blast past him!

NARRATOR

He springs back on the path and speeds toward the finish line.

FOX

Too late, Hare. Tortoise is already here!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: Slow and steady wins the race.