

Aesop

encore



Séries B

The Oak and the Reeds

The Farmer and the Stork

The Ant and the Dove

The Frogs Who Want a King

The Milkmaid and the Pail

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 OAK AND THE REEDS

NARRATOR

One autumn day, a storm blows through the forest and over the stream.

OAK

I am the king of the forest. I can stand up against the wind!

REEDS

We are weak. We bend in the wind!

NARRATOR

Then the storm becomes a hurricane!

OAK

I am strong. I can still resist the wind!

Oak falls to the ground.

NARRATOR

The large oak falls into the stream between the Reeds.

REEDS

Oh no, look! The king of the forest is blown over by the wind.

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OAK

You are still standing. I am on the ground. Why?

REEDS
(One at a time)

You are too proud, Mister Oak. You fight against the strong and terrible winds. You are ruined. We bend before the slightest breeze. Then we stay standing.

NARRATOR

The moral of the story : It is better to bend than to break.

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THE FARMER AND THE STORK

NARRATOR

One spring day, a farmer sets a trap in his field.

FARMER

The birds are eating my seeds. I'll get those birds!

NARRATOR

Soon, he trapped some cranes.

CRANES

Oh! Alas! Help!

FARMER

You are finished!

NARRATOR

Among the cranes, there is a stork.

STORK

Sir! Let me go!

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FARMER

You are eating seeds like the others!

STORK

I am not a crane, I am a good stork. Look at my feathers!

NARRATOR

The farmer is not moved by the stork's speech.

FARMER

I trapped you with the other thieves. You are a thief also!

NARRATOR

Then the farmer kills not only the cranes, but also the unlucky stork.

FARMER

Crane or stork, it is all the same when you are a thief.

NARRATOR

The moral of the story : If you are friends with thieves, too bad for you.

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THE ANT AND THE DOVE

NARRATOR

A thirsty ant goes to the river to drink some fresh water.

ANT

I am so thirsty! There's the river. I must go down there to drink.

NARRATOR

Half way down, the ant slips and falls into the swift running river.

ANT

Help! Help!

NARRATOR

A dove sees the ant in danger.

DOVE

Oh no! The ant is in trouble!

NARRATOR

She drops some leaves into the river near the ant.

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DOVE

Climb onto a leaf!

NARRATOR

The ant climbs onto a leaf and floats to the shore.

A hunter enters.

HUNTER

Aha! A dove I can trap!

NARRATOR

The ant sees the Hunter hiding behind a tree with a trap in his hand.

ANT

The dove is in danger!

NARRATOR

The ant walks over to the hunter and pricks his heel.

HUNTER

Ow! Ow! My foot!

NARRATOR

The dove hears the cries and flies away.

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DOVE

Many thanks, my little friend!

ANT

You are very welcome!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: One good deed deserves another.

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THE FROGS WHO WANT A KING

NARRATOR

The frogs are at war with each other.

BLUE FROGS

Blue! Blue! We are blue! We are best!

GREEN FROGS

Green! Green! We are green! We are best!

NARRATOR

However, many frogs wanted peace and order.
They went to Jupiter, the King of the Sky.

SPOTTED FROGS

O great Jupiter! Give us a king who will tell us what to do.

JUPITER

Silly frogs! Here is your king!

NARRATOR

He throws a tree trunk down into the marsh.

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BLUE and GREEN FROGS

It is only the trunk of a tree. Bah!

BLUE FROGS

Blue! Blue! We are blue! We are best!

GREEN FROGS

Green! Green! We are green! We are best!

NARRATOR

The spotted frogs complain to Jupiter.

SPOTTED FROGS

This log king does nothing. We want a real king who will give us the law!

NARRATOR

Jupiter is angry because the frogs are all crazy.

JUPITER

Here is a stork, a hungry ruler!

NARRATOR

The stork immediately begins to swallow the frogs.

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STORK

Gulp. Gulp. Mmmm, yummy little frogs. I will try a blue one.

FROGS

Oh no! Alas! Help us Jupiter!

JUPITER

No! You must live with your new ruler. This is what you demanded from me!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: Better no rule than cruel rule.

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THE MILKMAID AND HER PAIL

NARRATOR

One day, a young milkmaid goes to market.

MILKMAID

Great, I have a big bucket of fresh milk. It will be worth a lot of money for me!

NARRATOR

While walking along, she dreams of what she might get.

MILKMAID

First, I buy some chickens from the farmer.

FARMER

Here are some chickens, miss. They lay eggs every day.

MILKMAID

Then, I sell the eggs to the wife of the mayor.

WIFE of the MAYOR

Here is the money for the fresh eggs, my little one.

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MILKMAID

Next, I buy a new dress and a pretty hat.

DRESSMAKER

What colour for your dress, miss?

MILKMAID

Green, of course!

NARRATOR

The young girl continues to dream.

MILKMAID

I wear my new outfit.

YOUNG MEN

Wow! What a beautiful young girl!

MILKMAID

I ignore them.

YOUNG MEN

What is your name, my dear?

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MILKMAID

I toss my head like this!

NARRATOR

The pail falls to the ground, and the milk spills all over.

MILKMAID

Alas! I have no friends, no new clothes, no money, no eggs, no chickens and no milk.

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: Do not count your chickens before they are hatched.