

# Aesop

## encore



### Séries C

The Lark and Her Young Ones

The Frog and the Ox

The Bundle of Sticks

The North Wind and the Sun

The Bat, the Birds and the Beasts

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 LARK AND HER YOUNG ONES

NARRATOR

A lark has her nest in a field of spring wheat.

LARK

Ah! my beautiful little babies are almost adults. Their feathers are complete.

NARRATOR

Then the farmer arrives and looks over his field.

FARMER

The wheat is ready to gather. I must ask my neighbours to help me with the harvest.

LITTLE BIRD #1

Mama! We must move!

LARK

Not yet, my son. His friends are not doing anything.

NARRATOR

A little later, the farmer comes again.

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FARMER

The wheat is perfect. Tomorrow I will do the harvest myself!

NARRATOR

Lark hears his words.

LARK

Now is the time for action, my little ones.

LITTLE BIRD #2

Why, Mama?

LARK

The farmer himself is doing the work!

LITTLE BIRD #3

Let's go!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: Depend on yourself more than on others.

(Self-help is the best help.)

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## THE FROG AND THE OX

NARRATOR

At the side of a pond sit a small frog and a large bullfrog.

LITTLE FROG

Oh Daddy, there is a terrible monster! He is as big as a mountain.  
He has two horns on his head, a long tail and hooves split in two!

NARRATOR

The bullfrog is very vain.

BULLFROG

Tsk, tsk, my child, it is only the farmer's ox. He is a little bigger than I am.

LITTLE FROG

Oh, Daddy! He is huge!

BULLFROG

Watch! I can become as big as he is!

NARRATOR

Bullfrog breathes in a lot of air and puffs himself up.

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BULLFROG

Is the ox as big as I am?

LITTLE FROG

Bigger than that, Daddy.

NARRATOR

Again, the bullfrog breathes in to puff himself up more,  
and then asks the same question.

BULLFROG

Is the ox as big as I am?

LITTLE FROG

Bigger than that , Daddy.

NARRATOR

Once more the bullfrog breathes in and puffs himself up as much as possible,  
and again he asks the question.

BULLFROG

Is the ox as big as I am?

NARRATOR

But at this moment, he bursts like a balloon stuck with a pin.

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LITTLE FROG

Oh Daddy, you are all flat!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: Vanity will often destroy you.

(Self-conceit may lead to self-destruction.)

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## THE BUNDLE OF STICKS

NARRATOR

A father who is about to die calls his children to him.

FATHER

Come here, my children. I will give you my advice.

SONS

We are here, Father, and we are listening.

FATHER

Take this bundle of sticks.

OLDEST SON

Father, a bundle of sticks is not important.

FATHER

Break the bundle for me.

OLDEST SON

Yes, Father

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NARRATOR

The boy tries to bend and break the bundle without success.

OLDEST SON

No way! It is impossible!

SECOND SON

Let me break the bundle!

YOUNGEST SON

Me too!

NARRATOR

The other sons try to break the bundle also. No one can do it.

FATHER

All right then, undo the bundle and each of you take a single stick.

NARRATOR

Each son obeys the father.

FATHER

Now, break the sticks!

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NARRATOR

Each boy easily snaps his stick.

SONS

Wow! That is so easy!

FATHER

Alone, you are weak. Together, my sons, you are powerful!

NARRATOR

Moral of the story: Together we are stronger.

(Unity gives strength)

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## THE NORTH WIND AND THE SUN

NARRATOR

North Wind and Sun are discussing which of them is strongest.

NORTH WIND

I am stronger than you!

SUN

No, my friend, I am stronger than you.

NORTH WIND

Look, there is a traveler. Whichever one of us can make him take off his coat wins the argument.

SUN

Agreed. After you.

NARRATOR

Wind tries to affect the traveler. He blows and howls with all his might.

TRAVELER

Good grief! It's a storm. I am very cold!

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NARRATOR

The poor man pulls his coat more tightly around his body to warm up.

NORTH WIND

Drat! It is not working! Now, it is your turn.

SUN

I will try.

NARRATOR

Sun shines with all his might.

TRAVELER

What strange weather! Now I am very hot.

NARRATOR

The traveler feels so warm that he takes off his coat.

NORTH WIND

Well Sun, you are stronger than I!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: Gentleness works better than force.

(Persuasion works better than force.)

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## THE BAT, THE BIRDS AND THE BEASTS

NARRATOR

The Birds and the Beasts are ready to start a terrible war.

BIRDS

Squawk! Squawk! Down with the Beasts!

BEASTS

Grrr! Grrr! Down with the Birds!

NARRATOR

Bat is not sure about which group to join.

BAT

What should I do?

BIRDS

Squawk! Squawk!! Bat, you have wings. Join us!

BAT

But, I am a Beast.

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BEASTS

Grrr! Grrr! Bat, you have teeth. Join us!

BAT

I am a Bird.

NARRATOR

When the war begins, the Birds seem stronger.

BAT

I fight against the Beasts! Down with the Beasts!

NARRATOR

Later, the Beasts seem stronger.

BAT

I fight against the Birds. Down with the Birds!

NARRATOR

Happily, the enemies decide to make peace and end the war.

BAT

Hey, Birds! I am your friend!

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BIRDS

Squawk! Squawk! Down with the Bat!

NARRATOR

The Birds all fly away.

BAT

Hey, Beasts! I am your friend!

BEASTS

Grrr! Grrr! Down with Bat, the traitor!

NARRATOR

All the Beasts attack the Bat

BAT

Alas! Poor me!

NARRATOR

The moral of the story: Choose your friends wisely and remain faithful.

(“He that is neither one thing nor the other has no friends.”)