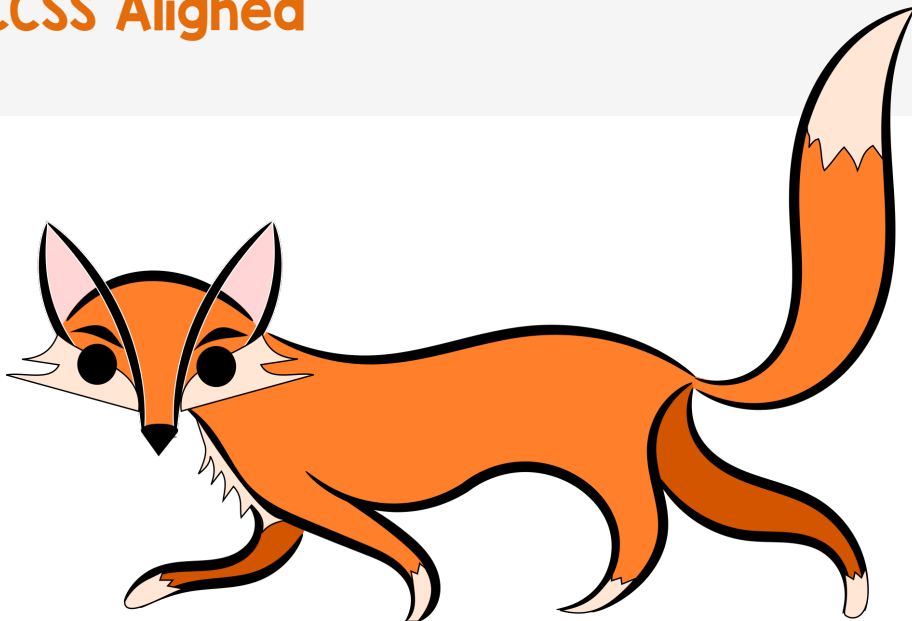


Read Relevant presents:

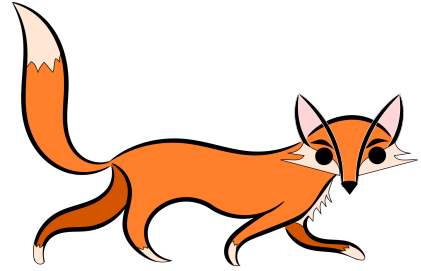
AESOP'S FABLES

**for theme, text-connections and
textual evidence**

- ✓ **Help your students master these skills with fun, relatable texts**
- ✓ **Short and manageable, printable worksheets**
- ✓ **8 passages with multiple choice and written response questions**
- ✓ **CCSS Aligned**



The Fox and The Goat



A fox once happened to fall into a deep well.

He tried in every way to get out, but at last began to think that it was impossible, and that he must die there, a prisoner. While he was thinking how sad that would be, a thirsty goat came and looked down into the well, wishing that he could get some water. He soon saw the fox.

"Hello," said the goat, "what are you doing down there? Is the water good?"

"The best I ever tasted," answered the fox. "It is cool, and clear, and delicious. Come down and try it yourself."

"I will," said the goat, "for I am nearly dead with thirst."

So the goat jumped down, and drank as much water as he wanted.

"Oh, how refreshing!" he cried.

"Yes," said the fox; "and now, if you have finished drinking, let me ask how you expect to get out of this well again."

"Oh, I don't know," replied the goat. "How do you expect to get out?"

"That is what I have been wondering about for the last hour," said the fox, "and have just now thought of a good plan. If you will put your forefeet high up on the wall, I will climb up your back, and so get out, and then, of course, I can help you out." "Very well," said the goat, who was a simple creature, "that is a good plan. How I wish I had your brains!" He put his forefeet on the wall, and the fox easily climbed out and started to go on his way.

"Wait a moment," called the goat; "you forgot to help me out."

"You foolish fellow!" said the fox, with a mocking laugh; "you ought to have thought how you would get out, before you jumped down. I fell in, but you went down of your own accord. Look before you leap next time," and off he ran.

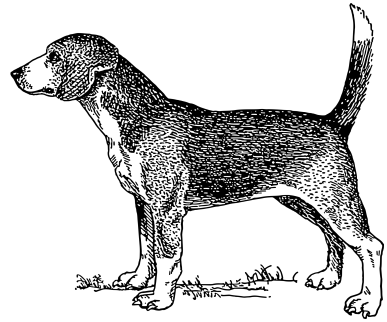
--Excerpted and adapted from Aesop's Fables: A Version for Young Readers by J.H. Stickney, 1915

1. What is the theme of the story?

- A. You can always judge someone by the company they keep.
- B. Money is the root of all evil.
- C. No one is too small to help others.
- D. Always look out for yourself before making decisions.

2. Explain how you determined the theme using evidence from the passage.

The Dog and His Reflection



A dog once had a nice piece of meat for his dinner. Some say that it was stolen, but others, that it had been given him by a butcher, which we hope was the case. Dogs like best to eat at home, and he went trotting along with the meat in his mouth, as happy as a king.

On the dog's way there was a stream with a plank across it. As the water was still and clear, he stopped to take a look at it. What should he see, as he gazed into its bright depths, but a dog as big as himself, looking up at him, and to his surprise, the dog had meat in his mouth.

"I'll try to get that," he said; "then with both mine and his what a feast I shall have!"

As quickly as he could, he snapped at the meat, but in doing so he had to open his mouth, and his own piece fell to the bottom of the stream. Then he saw that the other dog had lost his piece, too. He went sadly home.

--Excerpted and adapted from Aesop's Fables: A Version for Young Readers by J.H. Stickney, 1915.

1. "As happy as a king" is an example of what type of figurative language?

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. Metaphor | B. Simile |
| C. Irony | D. Hyperbole |

2. What is the theme of the story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. What is a text connection you can make to this story? (Text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world)

The Bundle of Sticks



An old man had many sons, who were often **quarreling**. He tried to make them good friends, but could not. As the end of his life drew near, the old man called them all to him and showed them a bundle of sticks tied tightly together.

“Now,” said the father, “see if you can break this bundle of sticks.”

Each of the sons in turn took the bundle and tried with all his might to break it, but could not. When all had tried and given it up, the father said, “Untie the bundle, and each of you take a stick and see if you can break that.” This they could do very easily. Then the father said:

“You saw when the sticks were bound together how strong they were; but as soon as they were untied, you broke them easily. Now, if you will stop quarreling and stand by each other, you will be like the bundle of sticks—no one can do you any harm; but if you do not keep together, you will be as weak as is one of the little sticks by itself, which any one can break.”

--Excerpted and adapted from Aesop's Fables: A Version for Young Readers by J.H. Stickney, 1915.

1. What does the word **quarreling** mean in this passage?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| A. Agreeing | B. Fighting |
| C. Laughing | D. Studying |

2. What is the theme of the story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. What is a text connection you can make to this story? (Text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world)

The Ants and the Grasshopper



A colony of ants were busily working on caring for their food, which they laid out in heaps around their country home.

Winter had come, and a grasshopper who was ready to die from cold and hunger approached with great humility and begged that they would help him by giving him one grain of wheat or rye. One of the ants asked him how he had spent his time in the summer, that he had not taken pains and built up a supply of food as they had done.

"Alas, gentlemen," said the grasshopper, "I passed away the time merrily and pleasantly in drinking, singing, and dancing, and never once thought of winter."

"If that be the case," replied the ant, "all I have to say is that they who drink, sing, and dance in summer must starve in winter."

--Excerpted and adapted from Aesop's Fables: A Version for Young Readers by J.H. Stickney, 1915.

1. What does the word "humility" mean?

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| A. Pain | B. Boldness |
| C. Empathy | D. Modesty |



2. What is the theme of the story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. What is a text connection you can make to this story? (Text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world)

The Ant and The Dove



An ant, walking by the river one day, said to himself, "How nice and cool this water looks! I must drink some of it." But as he began to drink, his foot slipped, and he fell in.

"Oh, somebody please help me, or I shall drown!" he cried.

A dove, sitting in a tree that overhung the river, heard him, and threw him a leaf. "Climb up on that leaf," said she, "and you will float ashore."

The ant climbed up onto the leaf, which the wind blew to the shore, and he stepped upon dry land again.

"Goodbye, kind dove," said he, as he ran home. "You have saved my life, and I wish I could do something for you."

"Goodbye," said the dove; "be careful not to fall in again."

A few days after this, when the dove was busy building her nest, the ant saw a man just raising his gun to shoot her.

He ran quickly, and bit the man's leg so hard that he cried "Oh! Oh!" and dropped his gun. This startled the dove, and she flew away. The man picked up his gun, and walked on.

When he was gone, the dove came back to her nest.

"Thank you, my little friend," she said. "You have saved my life."

And the little ant was overjoyed to think he had been able to do for the dove what the dove had so lately done for him.

--Excerpted and adapted from Aesop's Fables: A Version for Young Readers by J.H. Stickney, 1915.

1. What is the theme of the story?

2. Explain how you determined the theme using evidence from the passage.

The Owl and the Grasshopper



An owl, who was sitting in a hollow tree, dozing away a long summer afternoon, was much disturbed by the noise of a grasshopper, singing in the grass below.

Instead of moving away at the request of the owl, or keeping quiet, the grasshopper sang all the more, saying that honest people got their sleep at night.

The owl waited in silence for a while, and then artfully addressed the grasshopper thus: "I suppose I ought to be angry with you, my dear, for I confess I would rather sleep than listen to your singing. But if one cannot be allowed to sleep, it is something to be kept awake by such a pleasant little pipe as yours. And now it occurs to me that I have some delicious nectar with which to reward a musician who sings so sweetly. If you will take the trouble to come up, you shall have a drop. It will clear your voice nicely."

The silly grasshopper came hopping up to the owl, who at once caught and killed him, and so finished her nap in comfort.

--Excerpted and adapted from Aesop's Fables: A Version for Young Readers by J.H. Stickney, 1915.

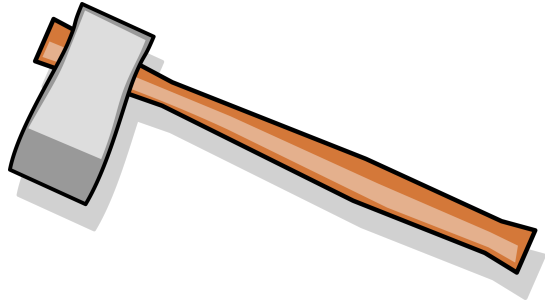
1. What word could be used to describe the owl in this story?

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| A. Honest | B. Wise |
| C. Cunning | D. Forgiving |

2. What is the theme of the story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. Why is the grasshopper "silly" in this story?

The Two Travelers



As two men were traveling through a wood, one of them took up an ax which he saw lying upon the ground. "Look here," said he to his companion; "I have found an ax."

"Don't say I have found it," said the other, "but we. As we are companions, we ought to share it between us."

"No," said the first, "I found the ax, so it is mine."

They had not gone far when they heard the real owner of the ax pursuing them, and calling out to them in great passion.

"We are in for it now," said he who had the ax.

"Nay," said the other; "say I am in for it, not we. When you thought you had a prize, you would not let me share it with you, and now you cannot expect me to share in the danger."

--Excerpted and adapted from Aesop's Fables: A Version for Young Readers by J.H. Stickney, 1915

1. What does the word "pursuing" mean?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. Following | B. Yelling |
| C. Leaving | D. Listening |

2. What is the theme of the story? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. What is a text connection you can make to this story? (Text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world)

The Moth and the Fly



A fly alighted one night upon a pot of honey, and finding it very much to his taste, began to eat it along the edges.

Little by little, however, he had soon crept away from the edge and into the jar, until at last he found himself stuck fast. His legs and wings had become so smeared with the honey that he could not use them.

Just then a moth flew by, and seeing him struggling there, said: "Oh, you foolish fly! Were you so greedy as to be caught like that? Your appetite was too much for you."

The poor fly had nothing to say in reply. What the moth said was true. But by and by, when evening came, he saw the moth flying round a lighted candle in the giddiest way, and each time a little closer to the flame, until at last he flew straight into it and was burned.

"What!" said the fly, "are you foolish, too? You found fault with me for being too fond of honey; yet all your wisdom did not keep you from playing with fire."

--Excerpted and adapted from Aesop's Fables: A Version for Young Readers by J.H. Stickney, 1915.

1. What does the word "alighted" mean in this passage?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| A. Jumped | B. Landed |
| C. Left | D. Flew |

2. What is the theme of the story? Use the RACE strategy and Include evidence from the text in your answer (Re-state the question, AnsWER all parts of the question, Cite the text, Explain).

Standards Alignment:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.2

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1

Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.2

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

Answer Key:

"The Fox and the Goat"

1. D
2. Answers will vary

"The Dog and His Reflection"

1. B
- 2-3. Answers will vary

"The Bundle of Sticks"

1. B
- 2-3. Answers will vary

"The Ants and the Grasshopper"

1. D
- 2-3. Answers will vary

"The Ant and the Dove"

- 1-2. Answers will vary

"The Owl and the Grasshopper"

1. C
- 2-3. Answers will vary

"The Two Travelers"

1. A
- 2-3. Answers will vary

"The Moth and the Fly"

1. B
2. Answers will vary

Credits:



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About the Author



This is my seventh year teaching language arts. I've taught general and special education, ranging from grades 6-12.

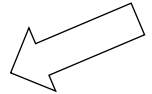
I have a Masters degree in Reading from Mercer University and a Bachelor's degree in 7-12 Secondary English Language Arts Education from Ohio University.

One of my favorite educational experiences was completing my student teaching in South Africa in 2012.

I love YA literature and enjoy creating resources for teachers to bring culturally-response, high-interest lessons into the classroom.

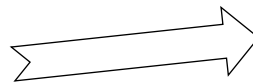
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