

Fables

Grades 4-6

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Illustrated by S&S Learning Materials**

ISBN 1-55035-174-5

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Revised January 2006

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Published in the United States by:
On the Mark Press
3909 Witmer Road PMB 175
Niagara Falls, New York
14305
www.onthemarkpress.com

Published in Canada by:
S&S Learning Materials
15 Dairy Avenue
Napane, Ontario
K7R 1M4
www.sslearning.com



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FABLES

1

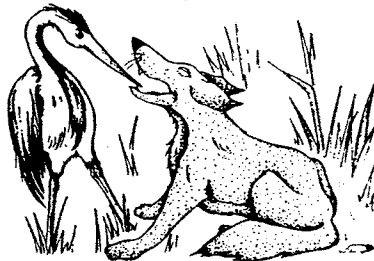
The Wolf and the Crane

Once a Wolf got a bone stuck in his throat and begged a Crane to pull out the bone promising to reward him generously.

The Crane put his head into the Wolf's mouth and with his long bill removed the bone.

When he asked for his reward, the Wolf laughed and said, "You stuck your head into a Wolf's mouth and pulled it out safely. What greater reward could you ask for?"

"I should have known," thought the Crane as he flew away. "You cannot expect a reward for serving the wicked."



**Do not say anything at any time
that you would not say at all times.**

FABLES

2

Jupiter and the Bee

The Queen Bee desired to give a gift of honey to the all powerful Jupiter. She busied herself collecting honey from her honeycombs. Then she flew up to Mount Olympus and gave her gift to the god. He was so delighted that he promised to give the Bee anything she so desired. The Queen Bee begged that Jupiter would give her a sting so that she could kill anyone who would try to steal her honey.

Jupiter was astonished that the Bee would seek such revenge. Unable to take back his promise, he granted the Bee her wish, warning her that her sting would be fatal to its victim.

Just as the Queen Bee was about to thank Jupiter, he stopped her and went on to say "The wound will be fatal to you only! As soon as you use your sting, it will be taken from you and afterwards you will die."

Consequently the Queen Bee learned that evil wishes usually have evil consequences.

In unity is strength.

FABLES

3

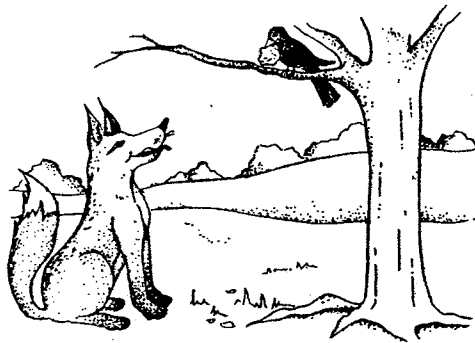
The Fox and the Crow

A Crow sat on the branch of a tree holding a piece of cheese in her beak. A sly Fox saw her and wanted the cheese.

He called out to the Crow, "What a beautiful bird! How glossy your feathers, how shining your eyes! Surely such a lovely bird has a lovely voice. I long to hear you sing."

Now the Crow, who was very vain, believed every word the Fox said. She foolishly opened her mouth to sing. Alas, the cheese dropped to the ground and the Fox immediately ate it.

He felt well fed and pleased with his cleverness. He said to the Crow as he walked away, "Do not be fooled by flattery."



It is easy to be brave when there is no danger.

FABLES

4

The Wolf and the Lamb

One day a Wolf met up with a Lamb who had strayed away from his fold and was lost. The Wolf decided not to kill the Lamb unless he could justify his actions.

Then he asked, "Would you happen to be the Lamb who insulted me last year?"

"Not I," said the Lamb, "for I wasn't even born a year ago."

The Wolf persisted, "Then you are the Lamb who I've seen feeding in my pasture?"

The Lamb protested saying, "No, indeed, I'm not for I have never yet tasted grass."

Impatiently the Wolf continued, "Then you are the Lamb who insists on drinking from my well?"

The Lamb responded, "No! for my mother's milk supplies my nutritional needs."

The Wolf grabbed the Lamb saying, "Even though you deny these accusations, I will still eat you for my supper." As the Lamb struggled bravely to free himself from his captor he thought, "Any excuse will serve a tyrant."

It is easy to be brave when there is no danger.

FABLES

5

The Lion and the Mouse

One day a Mouse woke a sleeping Lion. With a terrible roar, the angry Lion seized the Mouse and was about to kill him.

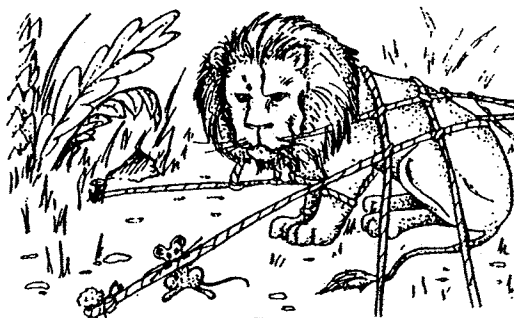
“Oh, please don’t hurt me,” the Mouse begged. “I will repay your kindness if you spare my life.”

The Lion was amused and said, “What can a Mouse do for me?” He then let the Mouse go.

Shortly after this, the Lion was caught in a trap that had been set by some hunters. The Lion could not free himself from the ropes and he roared loudly.

The Mouse heard the Lion’s roar and ran to where the Lion was trapped. He gnawed through the ropes until at last the Lion was free.

“Thank you,” said the grateful Lion. “I know now that a kindness is never wasted.”



There’s a time for work and a time for play.