

S4.2 FABLES, LEGENDS AND HISTORY



S4.2.1

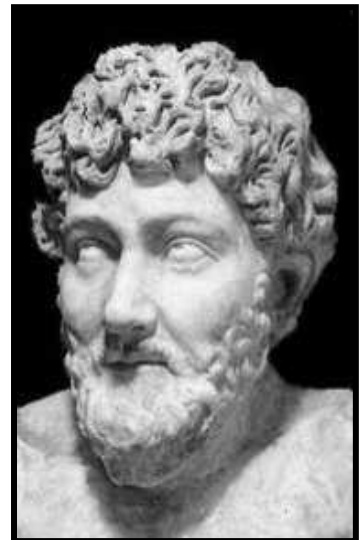
We will research examples of fables from Greek mythology.

A. Read.

Aesop's name will undoubtedly always be associated with fables.

What is a fable?

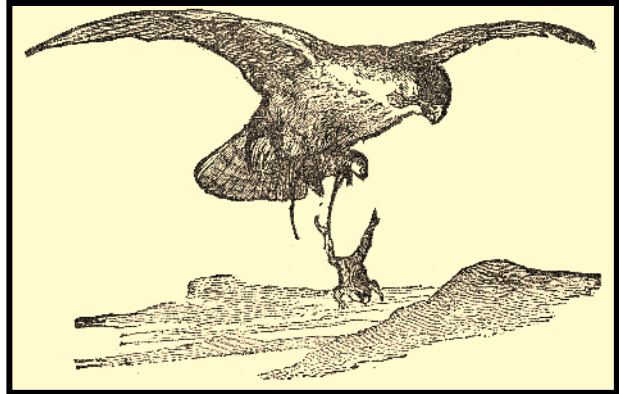
A fable is the type of story which an author writes with the intention of teaching the readers a lesson. These stories, in which animals can talk and think like people, have existed for a very long time. In fact, Aesop was and still is renowned as the greatest author of fables. Aesop lived in Greece around the year 500 B.C.



Let us read two of Aesop's fables.

The Frog and the Mouse

Once upon a time, a mouse made friends with a large frog. The frog was always fooling around and, to tease his friend, he tied his friend's foot to his own with a string. Then they set off, slowly, to look for food. When they arrived near a pond, the frog dived into the water and pulled the mouse down with him. The mouse swallowed a lot of water, his belly became bloated and he drowned.



The dead mouse floated on the surface of the water still tied to the frog's leg. The frog tried really hard to untie himself but no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't undo the knot.

Sometime later a hawk flew by. He saw the dead mouse floating on the surface of the water and dived down for it like an arrow. He grabbed it in his beak and swallowed it whole. The hawk was still hungry and so, when he saw the frog dangling on the string in front of him, he swallowed him too. So, the saying that what you do unto others is done unto you, is true.

The Two friends

On the first bright summer's day,
With light and happiness all around;
Two friends went out for a walk,
Through the valleys and the fields.

But then they went into a wood,
Full of greenery and trees;
They were so busy talking, laughing,
That they didn't realise how far they'd
gone.

Suddenly they heard a loud growl,
Which echoed far and wide...?
It was a large, strong, famished bear,
And it went straight for them.

One of them, being a bit cowardly,
Immediately climbed up a tree;
The other one lay dead still on the
ground,
Thinking hard and hard...

The bear approached him, sniffing,
snorting.

Looking him over, from head to toe;
But the man stood still as stone
And the bear left on his own.

His friend climbed slowly down the
tree and ran over to him;

With a smile he asked what the bear
had whispered in his ear.

"I will tell you what he told me" said
the other,

"He said you are not a friend.

Because a friend who's true and good

Would stand by you through thick and thin."

Bro. Henry F.S.C.
From *Hrejjeff Esopu*
(*Aesop's Fables*)
Denfil 5, 1974



Mark the correct answer:

1. A fable:
a) may be a true story.
b) is a true story.
c) is entirely made up.

2. The fable:
a) is meant to scare children into behaving well.
b) is something we should not read when we grow up.
c) always ends with a lesson.

3. Aesop, a famous writer of fables, was (Greek, English, Arabic).

4. Aesop lived around (50, 500, 2,500) years ago.

5. The story of The Two Friends is a fable written by (Aesop, Brother Henry).

6. The story of the Two Friends was turned into a poem by (Aesop, Brother Henry).

B. Let us write.

Find a book with another fable, read the book and then write the story in short.

