

FUN WITH FABLES

Of all the fables that you heard today which one was your favorite? Retell it to a friend, but give it your own special twist!

Go to your local library and find a collection of Aesop's Fables. Read several fables until you find one that you like. Read the story several times until you think you know it fairly well. Write a brief outline or draw a series of pictures to help you learn the story. How might you change your VOICE



while telling it out loud? How might you use your BODY if you had to tell it silently? Close your eyes and see the story in your IMAGINATION. Use your voice, body, and imagination together to TELL, not read, your story. Practice telling it to yourself, a mirror, your mom, your friend, and your cat. Practice, Practice, PRACTICE. When you think you have it the way you want it, ask your teacher if you could tell your story to the class.

As a follow up activity you could go back to the library and find two or three different versions of the same fable, edited by different authors. Compare and contrast these different versions. How are they alike? How are they different? Decide which one you like best and tell why. Rewrite the story in your own words using ideas from each of the different sources. You may also look for similar stories from other cultures. For example: The Cherokee have a version of the race between the rabbit and the turtle, while the Iroquois tell of a race between turtle and bear. You will find folk tales from around the world under 398.2 in the Dewey Decimal System in your library.

Each of the animals in Aesop's Fables have well defined characteristics. For example, the fox is sly, witty, and a trickster. Make a list of your five favorite animals from the stories you have heard. Use this list to create a chart that defines each animal's strengths and weaknesses.



You can use this chart to write a fable. Choose one animal to be your main character. Write two sentences describing what that animal looks like. Write another sentence to describe its characteristics. Choose another animal to be a minor character. Write one sentence describing what it looks like and another describing its characteristics. Where do these animals meet? Write two sentences describing the setting. Answer each of these questions with a complete sentence: What do these animals do together? What problem might they encounter? How do they solve the problem? What do they learn from this experience? What is the moral of the story? Use all of this information to create your fable. You will need to rewrite your sentences re-shaping them into a story. Revise, edit, and publish your story.

You could also begin with the end. Brainstorm a list of morals or lessons from life that you think are important. Choose a moral and write a story that shows how that lesson was learned and why it is important. Like Aesop, use animals instead of people for characters!

When you have finished writing your fable, revise, rewrite, edit and type your story to share with your class. Send your story to me and I may post it on my website! For more fables, see Fox's CD, [Fun With Fables!](#) Here are two web sites where you can find fables on-line: www.storyarts.org and classics.mit.edu.