

Aesop's Fables

Synopsis

Learn life lessons and important values from Aesop, The great fable-maker, as he brings them to life before your very eyes using large puppets and innovative costumes!

It's a dreadful day in the life of young Jimmy- his mother has dragged him to a modern day museum, in the hopes of giving her son a little culture, but has found herself lost in a new exhibit that isn't open to the public yet. One question looms on Jimmy's mind; "Is it time to go home yet?" Mother makes him promise to 'stay put' as she searches for a way back to the front desk for a map. Just as she leaves, a statue of Aesop comes to life to share some of his most famous fables. He begins with the classic story of The Tortoise and Hare, a delightful tale in the mastery of the tortoise that uses his focus and determination to triumph. The silly hare underestimates his competitor and even stops for ice cream to cool off! Next up Aesop introduces the Crow and the pitcher, and we find that necessity is the mother of invention when the bird must concoct a plan to reach the water in the pitcher. And what story of Aesop would be complete without The Boy Who Cried Wolf? Lively sheep with playful personalities toy with the boy who learns the value of the truth. Finally, Jimmy meets a crow with a mouthful of cheese and a fox in the mood for a "delish Swiss." Aesop shows Jimmy that those who flatter often want something in return when the fox tricks the crow into losing her blunder.

The tales have been told and Jimmy's mother arrives just as Aesop hops back on his pedestal to wait for someone to notice him again. And though his mother thinks Jimmy is suffering from dehydration and fabling about fables, Jimmy has says goodbye to Aesop and he and his mom head home for the day.

Aesop's Fables

In The ArtReach production of *Aesop's Fables*, we meet Jimmy, a small child who meets Aesop (as a statue) in the museum. Aesop tells four of his fables to Jimmy, who learns the lessons or morals of the stories.

In this activity, students will write their own fables based on *Aesop's Fables* and the morals learned.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pencil and paper for writing fables
- Supplies to illustrate their fables

ACTIVITY

1. Introduce/review the concepts for Aesop's Fables including vocabulary terms: fable, moral, story, etc.
2. Read or reiterate the fables and morals discussed in the ArtReach production of *Aesop's Fables*. Ensure students thoroughly understand the morals.
 - a. The Tortoise and the Hare
 - i. Moral: Slow and steady wins the race.
 - b. The Crow and the Pitcher
 - i. Necessity is the mother of invention.
 - c. The Boy Who Cried Wolf
 - i. No one believes a liar.
 - d. The Fox and the Crow
 - i. Those who flatter often want something in return.
3. As a class, discuss these fables and their morals. Have the students begin to think of modern-day comparisons to these fables.
4. Divide the students into groups and have them choose one moral. The students will then write their own modern-day fable that meets the moral.
5. Once students have written their fable, they should illustrate it as a group. Ensure that their illustrations depict the fable.
6. Once all groups have finished, have the students come to the front of class and act out their fable.
7. TWIST: See if the audience can guess which moral goes to the newly written fable.

Aesop's Fables

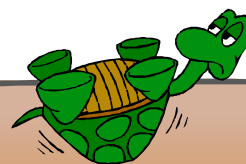
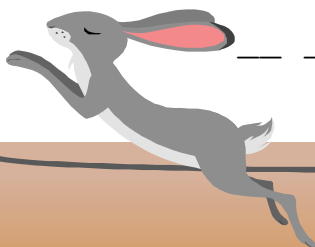
Circle all of the words in the word lists below and then write down the remaining letters to spell a secret message about Aesop's Fables.

S A F X A J P E E H S
E T O B I L S E C I S
L F A M A I L A R O M
B S M T O S T Y O O R
A Y Y T U H R T W H A
F T R M A E R C E C I
A O P L T P A F L O W
T A W T H H A E Y S H
N A A A S E A M S O R
A L R L A R T T H O E
F E E N D D R I Q V P

AESOP
CROW
FABLE
FLATTERY
FOX

HARE
ICE CREAM
JIMMY
MORAL
NAP

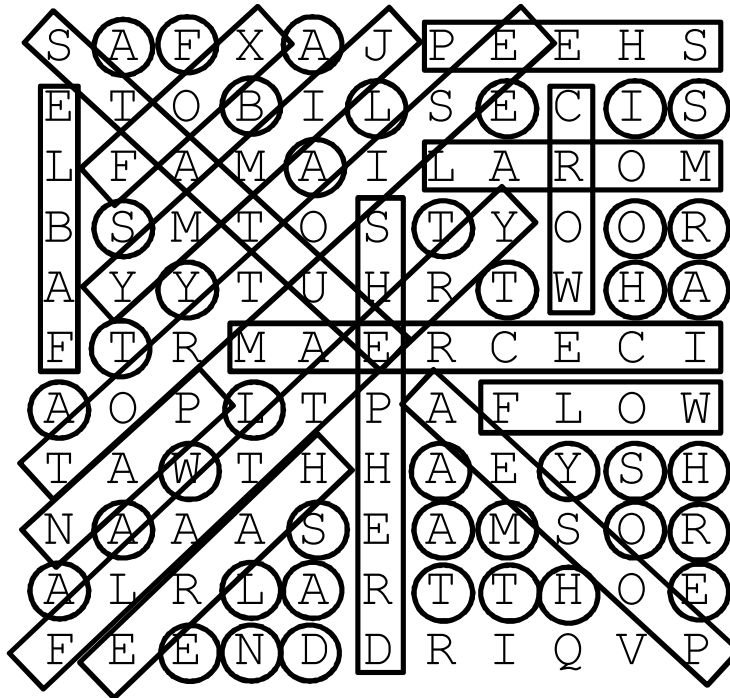
SHEEP
SHEPHERD
STATUE
TORTOISE
WOLF



Aesop's Fables

(ANSWER KEY)

Circle all of the words in the word lists below and then write down the remaining letters to spell a secret message about Aesop's Fables.



AESOP
CROW
FABLE
FLATTERY
FOX

HARE
ICE CREAM
JIMMY
MORAL
NAP

SHEEP
SHEPHERD
STATUE
TORTOISE
WOLF

A FABLE IS A STORY THAT ALWAYS HAS A MORAL AT THE END