

5:3a Introduction to Fables

Fables are stories meant to teach a lesson. Fables are still used widely today, but the best known are Aesop's Fables. Most fables center around characters of animals. Some situation occurs, then the story ends. At the end of the story, there is a moral. The moral is the lesson was being taught.

Aesop, a Greek, never wrote any of his fables down, preferring instead to use the method of oral storytelling. Only about 2,500 years after his death did anyone think of writing them down! It is unknown exactly how many fables there are, or how many fables were lost. Because of this oral tradition and long wait before recording the fables, there are many fables that have the same name and moral, but different wording. There are hundreds of translations of fables all around the world.

Some resources for fables:

Websites:

<http://www.aesopfables.com/>

www.fables.org/

www.umass.edu/aesop

classics.mit.edu/Aesop/fab.html

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www.literature.org/authors/aesop/fables

Books:

The Classic Treasury of Aesop's Fables illustrated by Don Daily

Aesop's Fables: A Classic Illustrated Edition compiled by Russell Ash

Friends of a Feather: One of Life's Little Fables by Bill Cosby

Fables by Arnold Lobel

Aesop's Fables translated by Laura Gibbs

Math Fables by Greg Tang

Aesop's Fables by Ann McGovern

Teaching with Aesop's Fables by Theda Detlor

Fifty Fabulous Fables: Beginning Reader's Theatre by Suzanne I. Barchers

Aesop's Fables by Brad Sneed