

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FABLE

620 BC – Aesop, a famous writer from Greece, is born as a slave. He is later given his liberty as a reward for his learning and wisdom.

500 BC - Aesop is thought to have lived on the Greek Island of Samos. His stories impress Socrates, Aristotle and Plato.

300 B.C. Aesop's fables were first written down by Demetrius Phalereus, who collected together all the fables he could find (about 200) under the title of Assemblies of Aesopic Tales.

1 B.C – In Ancient India, hundreds of fables were composed and used for moral lessons, including in Buddhist teachings.

50 A.D. Fables are brought by to Alexandria, where they are translated under the title of "Libyan Fables."

230 A.D. In the Roman Empire, a corpus of ancient fables is translated into Greek and Latin.

1100 - During the Middle Ages, fables become especially popular among the Normans. A number of them occur on the Bayeux Tapestry.

1480 – The first printed version of Aesop's Fables is published and soon translated into German, French, English, Italian, Dutch, and Spanish.

1600 - The French fabulist Jean de La Fontaine sees the soul of the fable in the moral as a rule of behavior and is inspired by the "Aesopian pattern." La Fontaine's work later influences famous English author John Gay.

Present – The fable is seen re-invented in numerous stories, and continues to be a conduit for conveying important moral and life lessons in both children's and adult literature.

TRAPPED IN AESOP'S FABLES! - CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What type of treasure does Henry find in the chest?
2. What is Aesop wearing when Henry meets him?
3. What is a fable?
4. What was the ant going to do with the piece of corn he was carrying?
5. How did the hare lose the race to the tortoise?
6. The second time the boy cried wolf, how did the townsfolk know there hadn't really been a wolf?
7. What is a gander?
8. What type of pig is Gurrie?
9. According to Aesop in this story, what is the most challenging role a person can play?
10. Why did Pathina want to sell her cow's milk?
11. What happened to Pathina's milk?
12. According to Henry's dad, is it easy to be a father?

TRAPPED IN AESOP'S FABLES! - CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What type of treasure does Henry find in the chest?
A: Old books
2. What is Aesop wearing when Henry meets him?
A: A Greek tunic
3. What is a fable?
A: A little story, illustrating a life lesson
4. What was the ant going to do with the piece of corn he was carrying?
A: Store it for winter
5. How did the hare lose the race to the tortoise?
A: He fell asleep during the race
6. The second time the boy cried wolf, how did the townsfolk know there hadn't really been a wolf?
A: Many of the sheep were still grazing and even sleeping
7. What is a gander?
A: A male domesticated goose
8. What type of pig is Gurrie?
A: A snow-white dwarf pig
9. According to Aesop in this story, what is the most challenging role a person can play?
A: The role of a parent
10. Why did Pathina want to sell her cow's milk?
A: To earn money so she could buy some eggs
11. What happened to Pathina's milk?
A: Her milk bucket fell off her head when she turned her nose upward
12. According to Henry's dad, is it easy to be a father?
A: No – but it is worth it when you see your kids starting to make wise choices

BIBLIOGRPHY

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