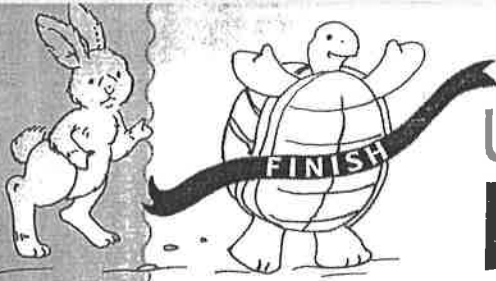


Due on 3-18-16

Unit 3 Mini-Lesson

Fables



What is a fable?

A fable is a very short story that teaches a lesson, or moral. In most fables, the characters are animals who talk and think like people. This is called personification.

What is the purpose of a fable?

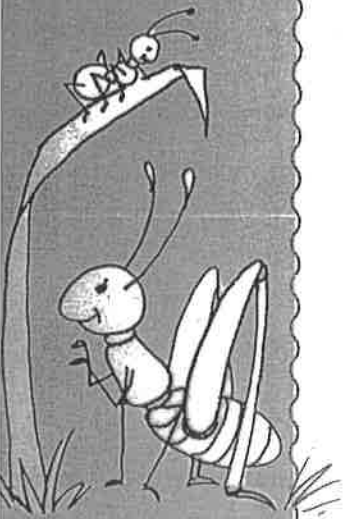
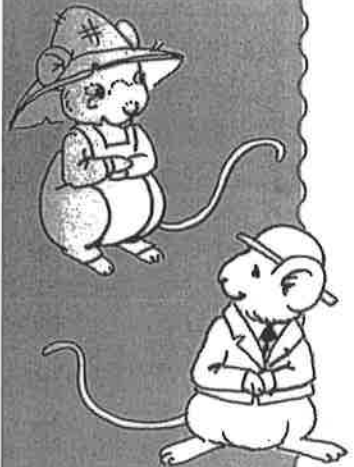
Fables teach people lessons. They often point out the errors in people's behaviors. Fables highlight flaws in character. For example, being dishonest is a character flaw. Being boastful or lazy are also flaws. Fables are enjoyable to read because animals usually play the roles in the fable.

Who invented fables?

People have told fables for thousands of years. Ancient peoples around the world all told fables. Later, in the Middle Ages, people continued this way of storytelling. Aesop is the most famous fable writer. Today, many storytellers still use the fable genre in short stories, plays, and films.

How do you read a fable?

1. The title will tell you who the main characters are.
2. Look for a character that represents the way humans should NOT behave.
3. Look for a character that acts the way humans should behave.
4. Notice what happens to the main characters.
5. Determine whether the events teach a moral.



Has at least one character with a flaw or problem

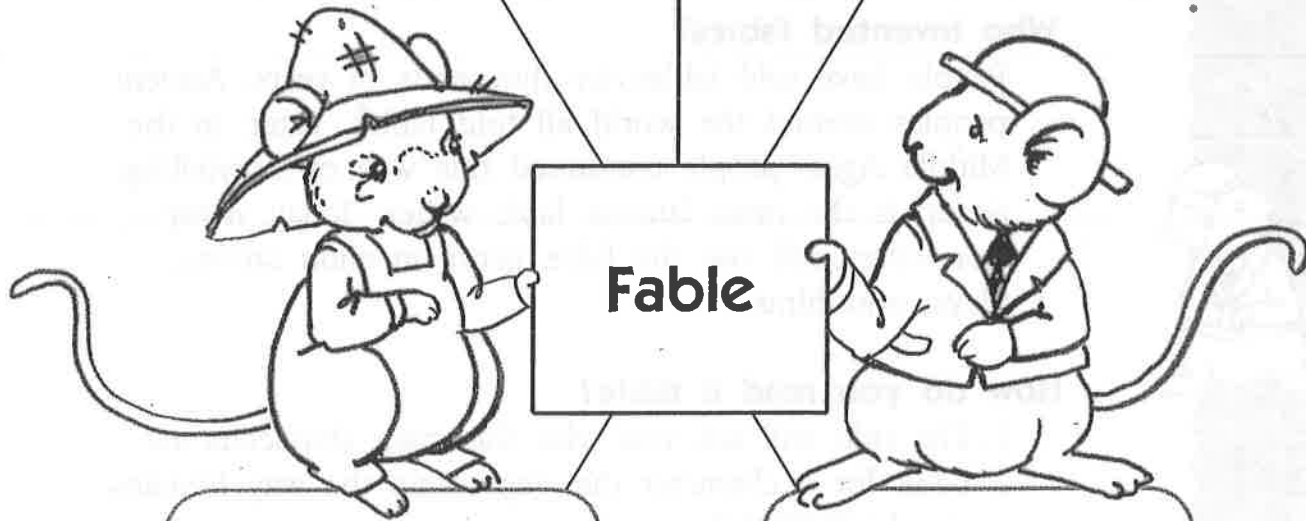
Includes main characters that are usually animals

Has a character that learns a lesson

Fable

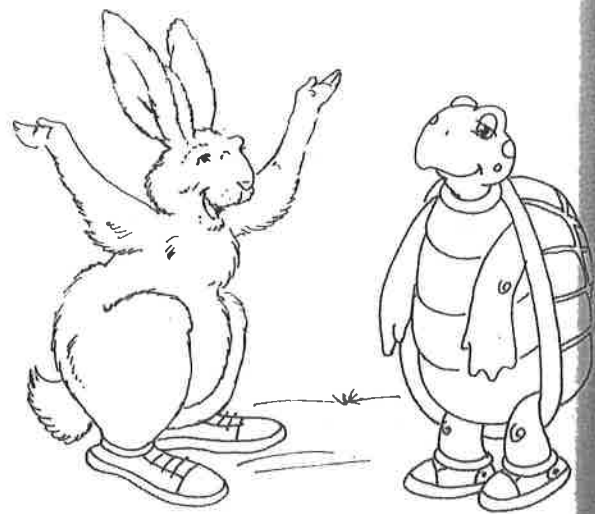
Is short

Has a moral/lesson at the end



The Tortoise and the Hare

One day, Hare saw Tortoise creeping oh-so-slowly through the forest. “Oh, Tortoise. Look at you! You’re as slow as can be, and I am so much speedier than you,” boasted Hare.



Tortoise was furious. Hare was always bragging and Tortoise was fed up with his obnoxious ways. Tortoise challenged Hare, “If you think you’re so fast, then let’s have a race. We’ll see who is faster.”

Hare laughed until his sides ached because he was confident he’d win. How could a slow, lumbering tortoise beat such a swift hare?

Word spread fast. All the animals came to watch the race. They didn’t think Tortoise could win, but they secretly wished he could. That would show Hare he shouldn’t brag!

The race began and Hare zoomed ahead immediately. Soon Hare couldn’t see Tortoise. Hare was so far ahead that he stopped at a tree. Unfortunately, he fell asleep.

Meanwhile, Tortoise plodded on. He was determined to teach Hare a lesson. At last, he got to the tree where Hare was sleeping. Tortoise passed the snoozing Hare. He never looked back. Tortoise moved slowly but he kept a steady pace. Soon, Tortoise was near the finish line.

All of a sudden, Hare awoke. He darted for the finish line as fast as he could, but Tortoise had crossed the line first. All the animals cheered. Hare had bragged too soon. Tortoise sat under the nearest shaded tree to rest. “You may be faster,” he told Hare. “But I won the race.”

Moral: Slow and steady wins the race.



Name _____ Date _____

Use what you read in the passage to answer the questions.**1.** Reread the title. What does the title tell you about the story?

2. Where does this story take place?

3. What happens after Tortoise asks Hare for a race?

4. What details support the idea that Hare is too confident?

5. What do you think Hare will do differently in his next race?

6. Which sentence from the story tells you the moral?

7. There are several reasons why we call this story a fable. List three reasons.

8. Look back at the moral. Retell the moral in your own words.

The Lion and the Mouse

One day a great lion lay sleeping in his forest den. Each day he took a nap and rested his great head. The other animals were careful not to wake him. Then one day a little timid mouse jumped upon the sleeping lion's head.

The lion awoke when he felt the mouse's footsteps, and he was furious! He grabbed the mouse and roared. "You have dared to wake a sleeping lion! You will pay with your life because I will eat you!"

"Please, Your Highness, forgive me," the mouse begged. "I am sorry, and I promise not to do it again. I will be your friend if you let me live. And I may help you one day."

The lion laughed uncontrollably. "What an impossible idea!" he said. "A mouse save a lion? What can you possibly do for me?" Since the mouse made the lion laugh, the lion was no longer mad. "I will not eat you today," he said. "But next time, I may not be so bighearted."

"Thank you," squeaked the mouse. "You're very kind, and I will repay the favor someday." Then off he scurried.

A few days passed and the lion took a walk in his forest. Unfortunately, he stepped in a hunter's trap. His roar rumbled through the forest until the mouse heard his cry. The mouse searched until he found the lion.

"Stay still," said the mouse. The mouse began to chew the ropes as the lion struggled. Soon the lion broke free.

"Thank you, friend," said the lion. "I did not believe that a small mouse could help me. But I was wrong. You have proved yourself."

Moral: No act of kindness is ever wasted.



Name _____ Date _____

Use what you read in the passage to answer the questions.

1. Reread the title. What does the title tell you about the story?

2. Why does the mouse become scared of the lion?

3. Does the mouse say he is sorry he woke up the lion?

4. What lesson does the lion learn?

5. What is the lion's problem when he "roared with anger"?

6. Look back at the moral. What is it?

7. What is the mouse's problem?

8. This fable uses a writing tool called personification. Which characters were personified?
