



978-0-8234-2400-9 • Picture Book

FOX TAILS FOUR FABLES FROM AESOP

AMY LOWRY

GRADES
PREK–3

About the Book

Four classic fables are artfully woven together to make a single story in this lushly illustrated picture book. The fables are “The Fox and the Grapes,” “The Fox and the Crow,” “The Fox and the Goat,” and “The Fox and the Stork.”

EDUCATOR’S GUIDE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS

Literature/Language Arts

Compare and contrast—If it is possible for students to hear original versions of each of these four fables separately before hearing them all woven into one story, they can then compare them and list the elements from each story as well as the four morals.

Morals—Students can discuss the four morals highlighted in this story and attempt to relate them to their own lives. They can write about experiences when they have been flattered or tricked or when they have perhaps made a hasty decision that backfired. They can also discuss whether they truly believe that “One bad turn deserves another.” After reading several fables they can create a list of morals that can be used for creative writing (see below).

Writing original fables—Students can learn to identify and use a predictable, concise narrative to a story by writing original fables. See Online Resources below for an easy lesson plan.

Tricksters—“Fox” is a notorious character from trickster tales throughout folklore from many countries. Students can be made aware of this genre of folk literature, and they may want to read other stories of tricksters: “Anansi” stories from African folklore; “Brer Rabbit” from Uncle Remus tales; “Puss in Boots” from fairy tales; or even “Bugs Bunny” from cartoons, who is thought to be based on “Brer Rabbit.”

Research—Students can obtain more information about Aesop, the presumed creator of hundreds of fables that continue to be a part of our literature. They can use encyclopedias, fable collections, and other print and online resources to read accounts of Aesop, his world, and the reasons for his creation of these timeless stories.

Online Resources

Fables—<http://mythfolklore.net/aesopica/oxford/index.htm> provides links to hundreds of Aesop’s fables

Writing original fables—www.creative-writing-ideas-and-activities.com/writing-fables.html presents a four-step lesson plan that teachers can use to help students to write original fables.

Aesop—www.online-literature.com/aesop/ presents detailed biographical information based on what is known about Aesop and is a good resource for teachers. It can be adapted for student use depending upon grade level.

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