

Aesops Fables

The Hare and the Tortoise

Characters : Hare, Tortoise and cat.

Once upon a time there was a hare, who was very boastful and a tortoise who was very clever but slow. On a summer's day the hare become really bored whilst walking with the tortoise and a cat to the beach.

"Oh tortoise, you do walk so slowly." said the hare.

"It's not my fault, I am walking as fast as I possibly can." replied the tortoise.

"Well it's not good enough, I bet I can beat you in a race to the beach." challenged the hare.

"I bet you can't" said the tortoise.

"Oh I bet I can." retorted the hare.

"Why not have a race then ?" suggested the cat.

And so it was, the cat started the race, and then ran off down a short cut to the finishing post, and the hare and the tortoise started racing down the coastal path to the finishing post. It was not long before the speed of the hare made allowed him to find a fantastic lead.

"Oh, this is going to be easy." said the hare smugly. "I should be able to rest a little under this tree before winning the race." So the hare fell asleep under the shade of a tree. Far behind the tortoise was still moving along the coastal path, and ever so slowly, now that the hare was stopped, was catching him up.

After an hour the tortoise had caught up with the hare, still asleep under the tree. He was at first going to awaken the sleeping hare, to make sure he was OK, but then decided not to. He just slowly walked past towards the finishing line.

It was another hour that the hare slept peacefully under the shade of the tree before he woke with a jump. Thinking that the tortoise was still far behind, he decided not to stress himself out under the heat of the midday sun, and just gently amble to the finishing post. The tortoise was only a few metres away from the finishing line when the hare walked around the final corner.

"Oh no, what have I done, how did he get there first ?" said the surprised hare. And now however fast he ran, he could not pass the finishing post before the tortoise.

"The winner" the cat said, " is the tortoise."

"Just remember," the tortoise said, "slow and steady always wins the race."

The Jay and the Peacock

Characters : Jay 1, Jay 2, Jay 3, and peacock.

One summer's day two jays were going for a walk, when they spotted some peacocks feathers. "Oh what some lovely feathers." said one jay to the other. "I suppose so." said the second jay.

They carried on walking down the path, thinking nothing more of the feathers, finding a space to sit down on grass, opposite near to a peacock.

Meanwhile back on the path another jay was going for a walk. On seeing the feathers he decided to pick them up and stick them around himself, to make himself look like a peacock. "Oh, I do look so good, now I can pretend I am a peacock." he said to himself. He carried on down the path, until he saw the lone peacock.

"Oh hello Mr Peacock." said the jay.

"Why don't you look like a normal peacock." said the peacock.

"You're not a peacock, they are just peacock feathers !" angrily stated the peacock, starting to pull off the feathers.

The jay worried for his life ran off towards the couple of jays he had spotted sitting down just a little way away.

"Why have you come over here ?" questioned the first jay.

"Yes, "pipped up the second, "you wanted to be a peacock, were we not good enough."

"I am so sorry." said the third jay. "I will never do it again."

Just remember said the first jay, "It's not only fine feathers that make fine birds."

The Monkey and the Dolphin

Characters : Sailor, Monkey and Dolphin.

One summer's day a sailor was about to set off on a long journey alone. Thinking he might become bored, he decided to take an animal with him to keep him company. "Oh, what animal shall I take." thought the sailor. "I know a monkey, I sure it will keep me entertained on the journey." So the sailor went to the market and bought a speaking monkey.

"And what is your name?" said the man to the monkey.

"Mondy" said the monkey.

It wasn't long before the man and the monkey set off on their long journey across the oceans. When they were about a day out to sea a violent storm struck the tiny craft and it was broken into many pieces. The man and the monkey had to swim for their lives.

On seeing the two in the water a passing dolphin decided to go and help and swam towards the monkey, assuming him to be a man. He told the monkey to jump on his back, and he would swim him back to shore. Whilst making their way back to shore, the dolphin asked him whether he was from Athens.

"Oh, yes." replied the monkey, "I am from one of the most important families of Athens."

"Do you know, Piraeus?" continued the dolphin.

Assuming the dolphin was talking about another person in Athens, the monkey replied that he knew him really well.

The dolphin working out that the monkey was lying threw him off his back into the deep water, where upon the monkey drowned.

The dolphin shouted as the monkey went under, just remember those who pretend to be what they are not, sooner or later, find themselves in deep water.

The Ant and the Grasshopper

Characters : Ant, Grasshopper

One summer's day a grasshopper was lying around under a tree, when he spotted an ant walking past with a large bag of grain.

"What on earth are you doing ant?" asked the grasshopper.

"I am taking some food home, ready for the winter." replied the ant.

"You don't want to be doing that on this glorious summer's day, you should be relaxing like me."

"But I can't, I need to collect food, ready for the winter."

"But there is so much food lying around, and I am sure it will still be there when I will need it."

So the ant continued working for the rest of the day, carrying bags and bags of corn back to his house, storing it ready for the winter.

Eventually summer turned to autumn and autumn to winter, and the grasshopper decided to go to look for food, but there wasn't any. The snow had covered most of the food that was still left on the ground, and the animals had already collected the rest.

The grasshopper remembering back to the summer's day when ant was collecting the food ready for the winter decided to give ant a visit.

"Hello", said the grasshopper to the ant.

"Hello" said the ant.

"I was wondering whether I could have some of your food." said the grasshopper.

"No." said the ant. "You should have collected the food during the summer, as it is best to prepare for the days of necessity."

The grasshopper left hungry to carry on its search for food, whilst the ant went back to his meal.

The Lion and the Mouse

Characters : Lion and Mouse

One summer's day a mouse was minding its own business when all of a sudden a lion pounced towards it.

"Don't eat me !" squealed the mouse, "please don't !"

"Well I suppose you are a little small, and would not fill me that much." replied the lion.

"O' thank you, thank you." said the mouse cheerily, "and if there is ever anything I can do for you, just call me and I will be there."

The lion left and went on his way, looking for larger prey to eat, and the mouse scurried back into the leaves beneath the trees.

The next morning the lion was still hunting for even more food, when, without noticing he put his foot into a hunter's trap and large net fell upon him.

"Aargh !" shouted the lion.

Now the mouse, who was at that time not far away heard the screams of the lion, and rushed towards the sound.

"Help !" shouted the lion, as he saw the mouse, "please help me out, otherwise I am sure I will be killed."

The mouse thought for a couple of minutes and then started to gnaw away at the ropes holding the main part of the net. After an hour he was through the main rope holding the net, and the lion could struggle free.

"Oh, thank you." said the lion.

"Just remember, " the mouse said, "little friends may prove to be great friends."

The Wolf in Sheeps' Clothing

Characters : Sheep, Wolf, Dog, Sheep

One summer's day a wolf was trying to get near a group of sheep, so as to have his fill. Though every time he tried the dog kept chasing him away.

"I wonder how I am able to get one of those juicy sheep for a meal." thought the wolf. Then all of a sudden he spotted a large skin from an old sheep. He tried it on and it fitted. Now thought the wolf I will be able to move into the flock without being seen.

He moved towards the flock, and this time the dog did not jump up, but carried on laying down in the floor. The wolf easily went around the flock choosing the one he wanted to have for his lunch. On finding the one that looked most juicy, he persuaded it to leave the flock, and go behind a tree. Once behind the tree the wolf killed the sheep and ate it all up. He then sneaked back into the flock to find the next sheep to eat.

This happened for the next couple of days, and the wolf gradually managed to eat around a quarter of the flock. Then one day he was very careless, and the skin became caught on a branch of a bramble, and was torn off his back. The sheep noticing he was a wolf disappeared in every direction. The dog awoke with all the noise, and seeing the wolf chased him, until he was far away from the flock. The dog had learned a vital lesson that appearances can be deceptive.