

Aesop's Fables

This famous Book of Fables, which are always referred to as Aesop's Fables, date back to the 5th Century BC

What are Fables?

Fables are short stories which illustrate a particular moral and teach a lesson to children and kids. The theme and characters appeal to children and the stories are often humorous and entertaining for kids of all ages. Fables can also be described as tales or yarns which have a message in their narrative such as a parable might have. Fables can often pass into our culture as myths and legends and used to teach about morals to children and kids.

The Characters of Fables?

The characters of fables and tales are usually animals who act and talk just like people whilst retaining their animal traits. This theme is especially appealing to children and kids.

Aesop's Fables

Aesop's famous fables and scripts provide great entertainment for children and kids. The fables, or stories, are all very short so keep the attention of children and Aesop's fables feature familiar animals loved by children and kids.

[Androcles Fable](#)

[Avaricious and Envious Fable](#)

[Belling the Cat Fable](#)

[Hercules and the Waggoner Fable](#)

[The Ant and the Grasshopper Fable](#)

[The Ass and the Lapdog Fable](#)

[The Ass and the Charger](#)

[The Ass, the Fox, and the Lion](#)

[The Ass in the Lion's Skin Fable](#)

[The Ass's Brains Fable](#)

[The Bald Man and the Fly Fable](#)

[The Bat, the Birds, and the Beasts Fable](#)

[The Belly and the Members Fable](#)

[The Boys and the Frogs](#)

[The Buffoon and the Countryman Fable](#)

[The Bundle of Sticks Fable](#)

[The Camel and the Arab](#)

[The Cat Maiden Fable](#)

[The Cock and the Jewel](#)

[The Cock and the Pearl Fable](#)

[The Crow and the Pitcher Fable](#)

[The Dog and the Shadow Fable](#)

[The Horse, Hunter, and Stag Fable](#)

[The Jay and the Peacock Fable](#)

[The Labourer and the Nightingale Fable](#)

[The Lion and the Boar](#)

[The Lion and the Mouse Fable](#)

[The Lion and the Statue Fable](#)

[The Lion in Love Fable](#)

[The Lion's Share Fable](#)

[The Lion, the Fox, and the Beasts Fable](#)

[The Man and His Two Wives Fable](#)

[The Man and the Satyr Fable](#)

[The Man and the Serpent Fable](#)

[The Man and the Wood Fable](#)

[The Man and the Wooden God Fable](#)

[The Man, the Boy, and the Donkey Fable](#)

[The Milkmaid and Her Pail Fable](#)

[The Mischievous Dog](#)

[The Miser and His Gold Fable](#)

[The Monkey and the Dolphin](#)

[The Mountains in Labour Fable](#)

[The Mouse, the Frog, and the Hawk](#)

[The Nurse and the Wolf Fable](#)

[The Dog and the Wolf Fable](#)
[The Dog in the Manger Fable](#)
[The Dog Invited to Supper](#)

[The Old Hound](#)
[The Old Man and Death Fable](#)
[The Old Woman and the Wine Jar Fable](#)

When were the first of Aesop's great Book of fables written?

It is not known exactly when the first Book of Aesop's fables were written as the fables were originally handed down from one generation to the next just like a myths, tales and legends. It is, however, believed that Aesop lived from about 620 to 560 B.C.

[The Dogs and the Hides](#)
[The Dove and the Crow](#)
[The Eagle and the Arrow Fable](#)
[The Fisher Fable](#)
[The Fisher and the Little Fish Fable](#)
[The Fisherman and the Little Fish](#)
[The Four Oxen and the Lion Fable](#)
[The Fox and the Cat Fable](#)
[The Fox and the Crow Fable](#)
[The Fox and the Goat Fable](#)
[The Fox and the Grapes Fable](#)
[The Fox and the Lion Fable](#)
[The Fox and the Mask Fable](#)
[The Fox and the Mosquitoes Fable](#)
[The Fox and the Stork Fable](#)
[The Fox, the Cock, and the Dog Fable](#)
[The Fox Without a Tail Fable](#)
[The Frog and the Ox Fable](#)
[The Frogs Desiring a King Fable](#)
[The Goose With the Golden Eggs Fable](#)
[The Hare and the Hound](#)
[The Hare and the Tortoise Fable](#)
[The Hares and the Frogs Fable](#)
[The Hare With Many Friends Fable](#)
[The Hart and the Hunter Fable](#)
[The Hart in the Ox Stall Fable](#)
[The Horse and the Ass Fable](#)
[The Horse and the Stag](#)

[The One-Eyed Doe Fable](#)
[The Ox and the Frog](#)
[The Peacock and Juno Fable](#)
[The Serpent and the File Fable](#)
[The Shepherd's Boy Fable](#)
[The Sick Lion Fable](#)
[The Sick Stag](#)
[The Stag at the Pool](#)
[The Swallow and the Other Birds Fable](#)
[The Thief and the House-Dog](#)
[The Tortoise and the Birds Fable](#)
[The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse Fable](#)
[The Tree and the Reed Fable](#)
[The Trees and the Axe](#)
[The Trumpeter Taken Prisoner Fable](#)
[The Two Crabs Fable](#)
[The Two Fellows and the Bear Fable](#)
[The Two Frogs](#)
[The Two Pots Fable](#)
[The Vain Jackdaw](#)
[The Vine and the Goat](#)
[The Wind and the Sun Fable](#)
[The Wolf and the Crane Fable](#)
[The Wolf and the Horse](#)
[The Wolf and the Kid Fable](#)
[The Wolf and the Lamb Fable](#)
[The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing Fable](#)
[The Woodman and the Serpent Fable](#)
[The Young Thief and His Mother Fable](#)

Who is Aesop?

Who is Aesop? Aesop is the name of the man credited with the authorship of a collection or book of fables. Aesop was a slave who many believe lived in Samos, a Greek island in the eastern Aegean Sea but others say he came from Ethiopia. The name of his first owner was Xanthus. It is believed that he eventually became a free man. In Aesop's biography Planudes describes Aesop an ugly, deformed dwarf, and the famous marble statue at the Villa Albani in Rome depicts Aesop accordingly.

Aesop's Statue in Rome



Who is Aesop and where was he born?

There are many possibilities relating to Aesop's place of birth, although he certainly spent much of his life living in Greece at the court of King Croesus in Athens. Suggestions for Aesop's place of birth include Thrace, Greece, Phrygia, Ethiopia and Samos.

Who is Aesop and what did he look like?

His very name, Aesop, may however give us a clue to his country of origin. The name Aesop is derived from the Greek word Aethiop which means Ethiopia! And Aesop was described by Maximus Planudes (c.1260-c.1330), the Byzantine scholar who wrote a biography of Aesop and a prose version of Aesop's fables, as follows "His visage was of black hue". In Aesop's biography Planudes describes Aesop an ugly, deformed dwarf, and the famous marble statue at the Villa Albani in Rome depicts Aesop accordingly.

When were Aesop's famous fables first translated into English?

Aesop's fables were first printed in English by William Caxton in 1484, from his own translation made from the French. Aesop's fables were not believed to have been written as Children's literature and the book of fables were originally used to make thinly disguised social and political criticisms. The similarity to parables or allegories can be seen in most of the short tales in Aesop's Book of Fables.

Aesop's fables?

Many of Aesop's fables in this compilation from the book have in fact since been found on Egyptian papyri known to date between 800 and 1000 years before Aesop's time. This clearly casts doubts on the authorship of many of the fables attributed to Aesop and the Aesop's Fables book. Many of the fables were possibly merely compiled by Aesop from existing fables, much in the same way that the Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes were but a new compilation of existing rhymes!

The Morals, Sayings and Proverbs featured in Aesop's fables

Each one of Aesop's fables has a lesson, or moral, to teach to children - just like a parable or allegory. A moral is added at the bottom of each of Aesop's fables. Many of the Morals, Sayings and Proverbs featured in Aesop's fables are well known today. Some of the most famous morals are as follows:

- **Moral - "Appearances often are deceiving." - Aesop's fables: The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing**
- **Moral - "Familiarity breeds contempt." - Aesop's fables: The Fox and the Lion**
- **Moral - "Slow and steady wins the race." - Aesop's fables: [The Hare and the Tortoise](#)**
- **Moral - "One person's meat is another's poison." - Aesop's fables: The Ass and the Grasshopper**
- **Moral - "Things are not always what they seem." - Aesop's fables: Bee-Keeper and the Bees**
- **Moral - "Never trust a flatterer."- Aesop's fables: Fox and the Crow**
- **Moral - "Beware the wolf in sheep's clothing." - Aesop's fables: The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing**
- **Moral - "Little friends may become great friends." - Aesop's fables: Lion and the Mouse**

The Morals, Sayings and Proverbs featured in the Book of Aesop's fables ensure that they still have meaning for us today.