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 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

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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.

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 Aesops 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 cast 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.