

# Aesop's Fables

*Aesop's Fables* are a collection of short stories said to have been told by Aesop, a slave in Ancient Greece. These stories have been passed down for generations, and each one contains a message, known as a moral, which teaches the reader a lesson about how to live their life.



Can you name any stories that would be considered to be fables?



# Today we will be reading two fables and comparing them:

## The Fox and the Stork

The Fox one day thought of a plan to amuse himself at the expense of the Stork, at whose odd appearance he was always laughing.

"You must come and dine with me today," he said to the Stork, smiling to himself at the trick he was going to play. The Stork gladly accepted the invitation and arrived in good time and with a very good appetite.

For dinner the Fox served soup. But it was set out in a very shallow dish, and all the Stork could do was to wet the very tip of his bill. Not a drop of soup could he get. But the Fox lapped it up easily, and, to increase the disappointment of the Stork, made a great show of enjoyment.

The hungry Stork was much displeased at the trick, but he was a calm, even-tempered fellow and saw no good in flying into a rage. Instead, not long afterward, he invited the Fox to dine with him in turn. The Fox arrived promptly at the time that had been set, and the Stork served a fish dinner that had a very appetizing smell. But it was served in a tall jar with a very narrow neck. The Stork could easily get at the food with his long bill, but all the Fox could do was to lick the outside of the jar, and sniff at the delicious odor. And when the Fox lost his temper, the Stork said calmly:

*Do not play tricks on your neighbors unless you can stand the same treatment yourself.*



## The Fox and the Crow

One bright morning as the Fox was following his sharp nose through the wood in search of a bite to eat, he saw a Crow on the limb of a tree overhead.

This was by no means the first Crow the Fox had ever seen.

5 What caught his attention this time and made him stop for a second look, was that the lucky Crow held a bit of cheese in her beak.

"No need to search any farther," thought sly Master Fox. "Here is a dainty bite for my breakfast."

10 Up he trotted to the foot of the tree in which the Crow was sitting, and looking up admiringly, he cried, "Good-morning, beautiful creature!"

The Crow, her head cocked on one side, watched the Fox suspiciously. But she kept her beak tightly closed on the cheese and did not return his greeting.

15 "What a charming creature she is!" said the Fox. "How her feathers shine! What a beautiful form and what splendid wings! Such a wonderful Bird should have a very lovely voice, since everything else about her is so perfect. Could she sing just one song, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds."

Listening to these flattering words, the Crow forgot all her suspicion, and also her breakfast. She wanted very much to be called Queen of Birds.

20 So she opened her beak wide to utter her loudest caw, and down fell the cheese straight into the Fox's open mouth.

"Thank you," said Master Fox sweetly, as he walked off. "Though it is cracked, you have a voice sure enough. But where are your wits?"



1

In your own words, explain why the Fox invites the Stork round for dinner in *The Fox and the Stork*?

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1 mark

2

Why doesn't the Stork get angry when the Fox plays a trick on him?

.....

1 mark

3

How does the Stork teach the Fox a lesson in *The Fox and the Stork*?

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2 marks

4

What does the word "sly" mean in line 7 of *The Fox and the Crow*?  
What is the Fox doing that is sly?

.....

.....

2 marks

5 Why do you think the Crow "forgot all her suspicion" (line 17) about the Fox?

.....  
.....

1 mark

6 A moral is a lesson that can be learnt from a story.  
What do you think the moral is of *The Fox and the Crow*?

.....

1 mark

7 Why do you think a fox was chosen for both fables?

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.....

.....

2 marks

Total  
out of 10