

# Aesop's Fables

## For Kids



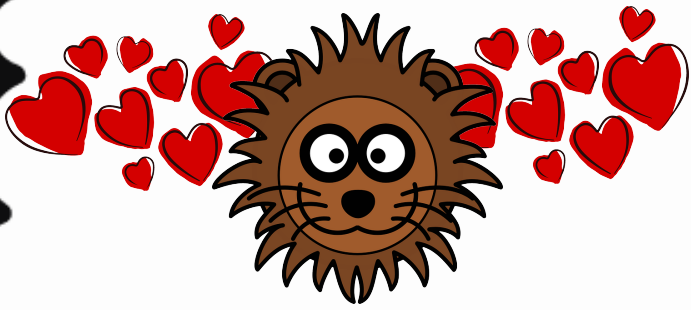
### The Lion in Love

*An Aesop Fable*

A Lion fell in love with a beautiful girl. He went to her parents to ask to marry her. Her parents did not know what to say. They did not want to let their daughter marry the Lion, yet they did not want to make the King of Beasts angry. At last the father said, "We feel very special to have you ask to marry our daughter. However, we are worried that our daughter will be scared of you. Might I suggest that you should remove your claws and teeth and then ask us again?"

The Lion was so much in love that he had his claws trimmed and his big teeth taken out. But when he came again to the parents of the girl they simply laughed in his face, and sent him on his way.

*Love can tame the wildest of animals.*



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# The Lion and the Fox

An Aesop Fable

The Lion announced that he was very sick and asked the animals to come and see him one last time. So the Goat went into the Lion's cave, and stayed there visiting for a long time. Then Sheep went in. Before she came out, the Calf also went into the cave to visit the Lion. But soon the Lion seemed to be feeling better and came to the front of his cave. The lion saw the Fox, who had been waiting outside for some time. "Why do you not come to pay your respects to me?" said the Lion to the Fox.

"Please excuse me," said the Fox, "but I noticed all of the animals that have already come in to visit you. I see many hoof-marks going in, but I see none coming out. Until the animals that have entered your cave come out again I prefer to remain in the open air."

**It is easier to get into the enemy's trap than out again.**



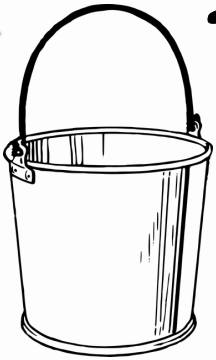
# Bundle of Sticks

An Aesop Fable

An old man who had five sons was worried that his sons would never learned to get along. He brought all of his sons together and ordered his servants to bring in a bundle of sticks. He said to his oldest son "Break it." The son tried and tried, but even with all his might he was unable to break the bundle. The other sons also tried, but none of them was successful. "Untie the bundle," said the father, "and each of you take a stick." When they had done so, he called out to them, "Now, break," and each stick was easily broken. "You see my meaning," said their father.

**Working together gives strength.**





# The Milkmaid and The Pail

An Aesop Fable

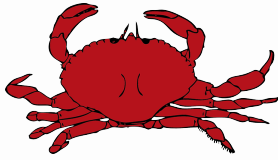
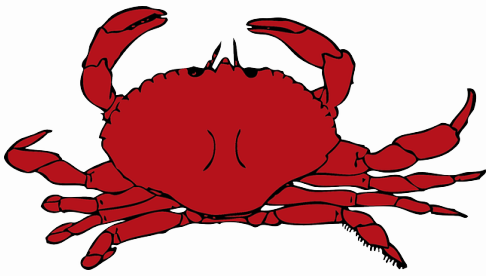
Patty the Milkmaid was going to market carrying her milk in a pail on her head. As she walked along she began thinking about what she would do with the money she would get for the milk. "I'll buy some hens from Farmer Brown," she thought, "and they will lay eggs each morning. I will then sell the eggs to the preacher's wife. With the money that I get from the sale of these eggs, I'll buy myself a new pretty dress with a matching hat. Then when I go to market, everyone will see how beautiful I look! Polly Shaw will be so jealous, but I don't care. I will just look at her and toss my head like this."

As she spoke she tossed her head back, the pail fell off it, and all the milk spilled out. Patty had to go home and tell her mother what had happened. "Oh, my child," said the mother,

"Do not count your chickens before they are hatched."

# The Two Crabs

An Aesop Fable



One fine day two Crabs came out from their home to take a stroll on the sand. "Child," said the mother, "Your walk is very crooked. You should be walking straight forward without twisting from side to side." "Yes, mother," said the young one, "but please show me how. I have only been walking the same way you do."

**Leading by example is the best rule.**



# The Miser and His Gold

An Aesop Fable

Once upon a time there was a Miser who used to hide his gold at the foot of a tree in his garden. Every week he used to go and dig it up and gloat over his gold. A robber, who had seen him do this, went and dug up the gold and ran away with it. When the Miser came to gloat over his treasures, he found nothing but the empty hole. He tore his hair, and raised such an outcry that all the neighbors came around him. He told them how he used to come and visit his gold. "Did you ever take any of it out?" asked one of them. "No," said he, "I only came to look at it." "Then come again and look at the hole," said a neighbor; "it will do you just as much good."

**Wealth unused might as well not exist.**



# The Countryman and The Pig

An Aesop Fable

At a county fair there was a Monkey who made all the people laugh by imitating the cries of various animals. He finished off by squeaking like a pig that everyone thought that he really was a pig. But a Countryman who stood by said "What? That doesn't sound like a pig! You give me till tomorrow and I will show you what a pig sounds like." The audience just laughed. The next day the Countryman appeared on the stage. He put his head down and made a terribly loud squeal. Everyone hissed and threw stones at him to make him stop. "You fools!" he cried, "See what you have been hissing," and held up a little pig. He had been pinching its ear to make him squeal.

Men often applaud an imitation and hiss at the real thing.





# The Fox and The Goat

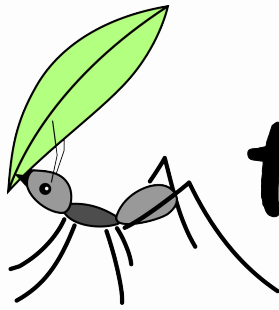
An Aesop Fable

One day a Fox fell into a deep well and he could not get out. A Goat passed by and asked the Fox what he was doing down there. "Oh, have you not heard?" said the Fox

"there is going to be a great drought, so I jumped down here in order to be sure to have water by me. Why don't you come down too?"

The Goat thought this was good advice and jumped down into the well. But the Fox immediately jumped on her back. By putting his foot on her long horns, he managed to jump up to the edge of the well. "Good-bye, friend," said the Fox.

**Never trust the advice of a man in trouble.**



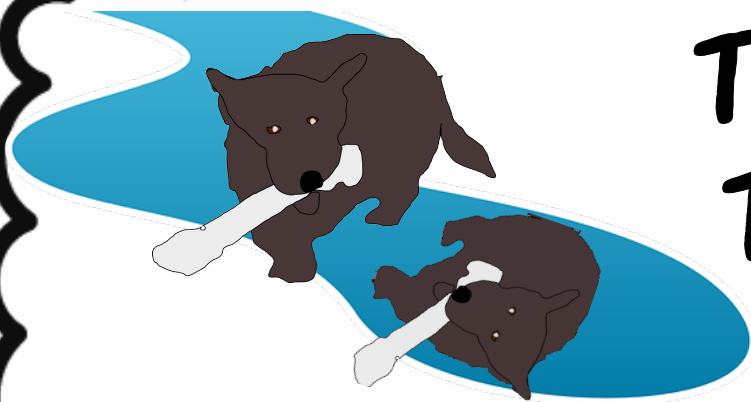
# The Ant and the Grasshopper

An Aesop Fable

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was chirping, singing, and hopping about for fun. An Ant passed by carrying an ear of corn back to his nest.

"Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of doing all of that work?" "I am helping to store up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and suggest you do the same." "Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper, "We have got plenty of food at the moment." The Ant went on its way and continued its work. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and was dying of hunger. The Ant, however, had plenty of food to last all through the winter from his hard work in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew —

**It is best to be prepared.**



# The Dog and The Shadow

An Aesop Fable

One day a Dog had a piece of meat and was carrying it home in his mouth to eat it. On his way home he had to cross a log lying across a stream. As he crossed, he looked down and saw his own shadow reflected in the water below. He thought it was another dog with another piece of meat that looked bigger than his. He wanted to have the biggest piece of meat. So he made a snap at the shadow in the water, but as he opened his mouth the piece of meat fell out, dropped into the water and was never seen again.

**Don't loose what you already have by grasping at shadows.**