LEVELED BOOK • M

Aesop's Fables

Retold by Julie Harding • Illustrated by Maria Voris

Multi Level M•P•S

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Focus Question

What can people learn from Aesop's fables?

Words to Know

compliments
flatter
greedy
humble
jealous
luxury
pasture
pitcher
snapped

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Level M Leveled Book
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Correlation

LEVEL M	
Fountas & Pinnell	L
Reading Recovery	19
DRA	24

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The Fox and the Stork

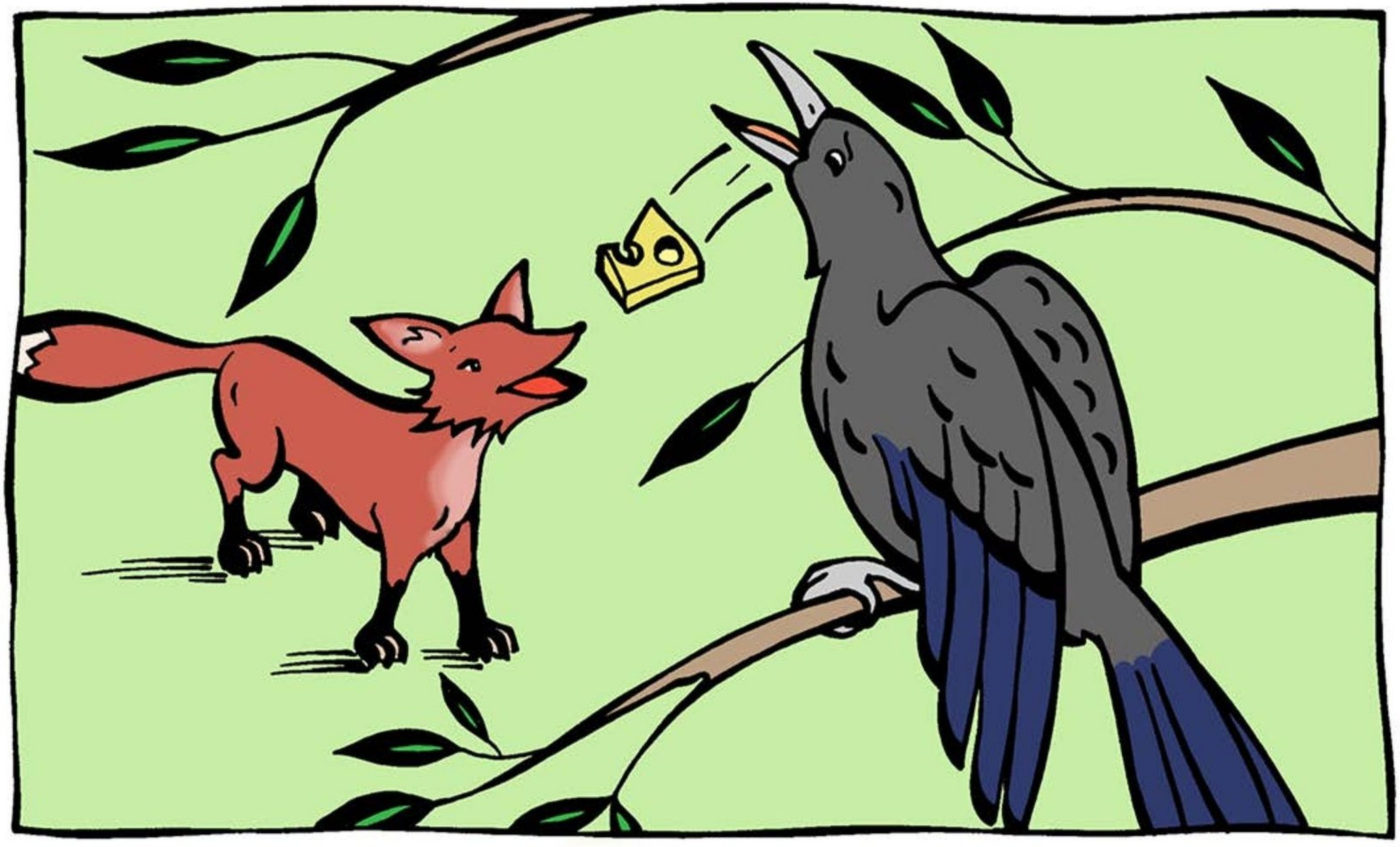
The fox had the stork over to eat soup. The fox put the soup in a flat dish. The stork could not eat any soup. He could not reach it with his long beak. The fox ate all the soup, and the stork went hungry. The next day, the stork invited the fox over for dinner. The stork put some meat in a jar with a long neck. The stork ate easily because his long beak fit into the jar. The fox could not get to the meat. This time he went hungry. The fox admitted that he had been wrong.

Moral: If you do mean things to others, they might do mean things to you in return.

The Fox and the Crow

The fox saw the crow fly to her favorite branch. She had a piece of cheese in her beak. The fox thought for a moment. He walked under the crow's branch and looked up at her. "You are the prettiest bird I have ever seen," said the fox. The crow looked down at the fox. "You fly so fast and gracefully. I bet you can sing, too," he said. The crow loved to hear **compliments**. She decided to sing for the fox. She opened her beak to sing. The cheese fell into the fox's mouth. When he was done eating, he said, "Thank you very much. That was all I really wanted."

Moral: Do not trust strangers who try to **flatter** you.



The Crow and the Pitcher

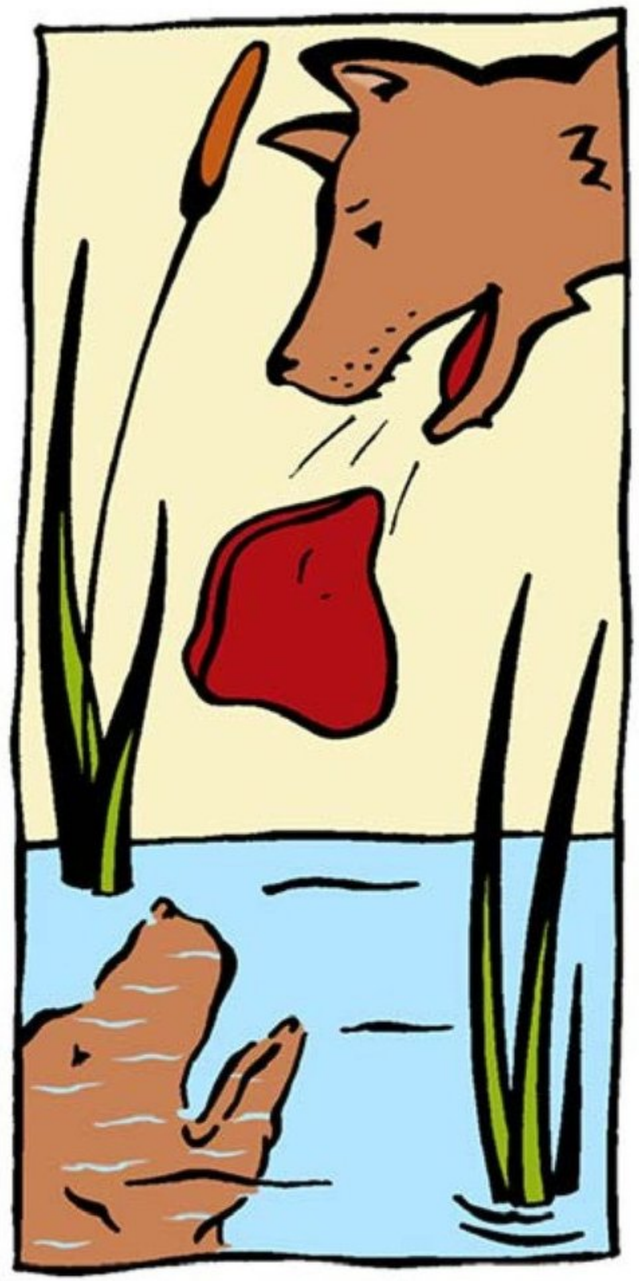
The crow had been flying all day, and he was very thirsty. He came across a **pitcher** that was half full of water. He could not reach the water in the pitcher to drink. His beak could not reach down the neck of the pitcher. He tried tipping the pitcher, but it was too heavy. He saw that there were pebbles all over the ground. He began to drop pebbles one at a time into the pitcher. It took a very long time, but the water rose to the top. Then he drank all the water he wanted.

Moral: Doing things little by little is just as good as doing things all at once.

The Dog and His Reflection

A dog was walking across the bridge over a stream. He had a nice piece of meat in his mouth. He looked down. He thought that he saw another dog. He thought the other dog had meat, too. He **snapped** at the meat in the dog's mouth. His own meat fell into the water. Then he realized it was not another dog after all. It was only his reflection.

Moral: If you are always **greedy** for more, you might lose what you already have.



The Peacock

Peacock's strange voice made people laugh. He wished he could sing beautiful songs like the nightingale. Peacock asked the goddess of animals for a new voice. The goddess replied, "You are **jealous** of the nightingale, but you should not be. The feathers on your neck shine with every color of the rainbow. And your tail looks as if it is covered in gems. No one has it all. The falcon is very fast. The eagle is very strong. The parrot can speak. The raven is smart. The nightingale has a pretty song. You are big and beautiful. You are special just as you are."

Moral: No one can be the best at everything. Treasure your own gifts and talents.

The City Mouse and the Country Mouse

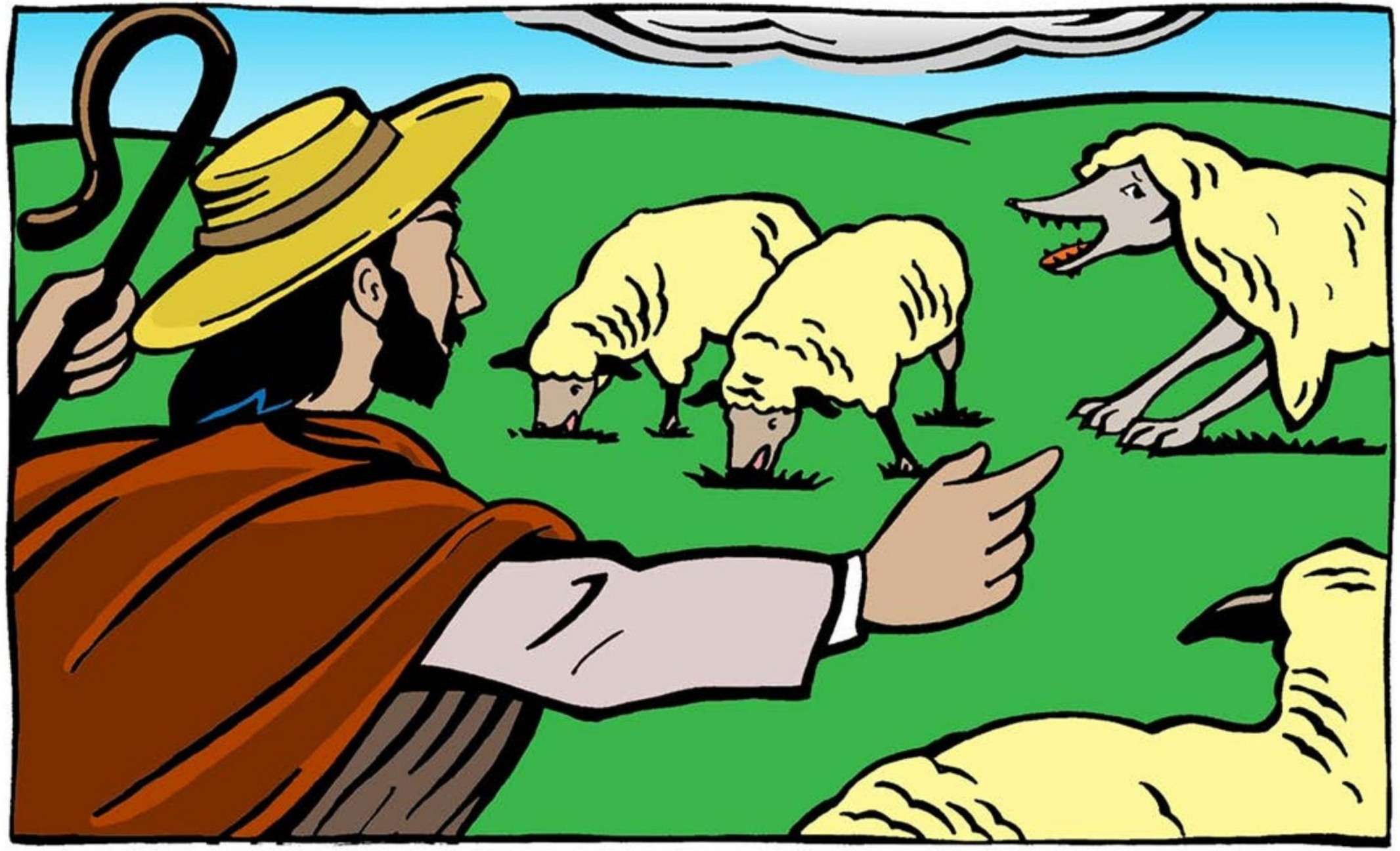
The poor country mouse came to visit his cousin, the rich city mouse. There were many things to do in the city. The country mouse had never seen so many other mice. The city mouse warned the country mouse that there was a cat in the house. The country mouse was scared. He decided that he would rather live in the poor, quiet country than live in fear every day. With that, the country mouse happily left for his **humble** home.

Moral: It is better to live simply in safety than to live in **luxury** and fear.

The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

A wolf put on a costume to look like a sheep. The wolf then went to a nearby **pasture** where there were many sheep. The shepherd let him into the pasture, thinking that he was a sheep. The wolf was about to bite a poor lamb when the shepherd saw what he was doing. The shepherd threw the wolf out of the pasture and told him not to come back. From that day on, the shepherd never let a sheep into the pasture until he checked it for sharp teeth.

Moral: The way things look is not always the way things are.



Glossary

compliments *(n.)* expressions of admiration or praise (p. 6)

flatter *(v.)* to give a compliment, especially for the purpose of gaining something (p. 6)

greedy *(adj.)* wanting more than what one needs or deserves (p. 9)

humble *(adj.)* simple or modest (p. 12)

jealous *(adj.)* feeling unhappy or mad due to a longing for what another person has (p. 10)

luxury *(n.)* anything valuable that gives comfort but is not necessary (p. 12)

pasture *(n.)* a field with grass and other low plants on which grazing animals, such as sheep and cattle, feed (p. 14)

pitcher *(n.)* a container for holding liquids that usually has a lip and a handle (p. 8)

snapped *(v.)* made a biting motion or sound (p. 9)

Aesop's Fables

A Reading A–Z Level M Leveled Book • Word Count: 789

Connections

Writing and Art

Write and illustrate your own fable. Start by thinking of an important lesson. Then, use animals as characters to teach that lesson in a short story. Share your fable with the class.

Social Studies

What is a moral? How is each moral connected to its fable? Why are morals taught in stories? Discuss with a partner.

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