



## Study Guide 2020-2021

# Aesop's Fables

ADAPTED BY ORLANDO SHAKES  
BASED ON THE FABLES BY AESOP



## Florida Standards

### Language Arts

LAFS.2.W.1: Text Types and Purposes  
LAFS.2.RI.1: Key Ideas and Details  
LAFS.2.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details  
TH.K.C.1: Cognition and reflection

### Theater and Visual Arts

TH.2.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts  
TH.2.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential  
VA.1.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential

**G**

Content appropriate for all audiences.

Children two years of age and younger may sit on laps. Older children must have a ticket.

# *Aesop's Fables*

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# Aesop's Fables

## An Introduction

Educators:

First, let us say that we hope you all are holding up during these unprecedented times. The past several months have been difficult for all who love arts education, and we are working hard to meet your needs for the 2020-2021 school year in whatever format works best for you and your students.

We are aware that some of you may be meeting in person with your students, some virtually, and many in a combination of the two. To that end, we are redesigning all of our educational offerings to be deliverable in a variety of ways.

We understand that Field Trips may not be possible this school year, due to social distancing and bus scheduling, however, for those of you able to come see a show, we intend to continue live Children's Series and Signature Series performances. We are also looking into streaming or recording opinions, for those of you unable to leave the school.

We also have created Virtual versions of our popular workshops, Shakespeare Alive and Books Alive, so that we can continue visiting your classrooms safely. Also, we have redesigned our Study Guides to be interactive. This will allow you to explore them with your students as a group, but also assign activities from them to your students to complete individually online. Our hope is that Orlando Shakes will continue to meet your needs and become an essential partner in bringing theatre arts to your students for years to come.

Most importantly, if you have an idea for a program or delivery system that would make our partnership easier, please let us know. We now know that anything is possible, and that we as arts educators inherently bring our talent and creativity to every challenge we face.

We look forward to working with you this year and learning how we can serve you and your students. Thank you for your tremendous work in nurturing our audiences of tomorrow.

Anne Hering  
Director of Education

Brandon Yagel  
Education Coordinator



# Aesop's Fables

## Enjoying Live Theater

### Theater is a Team Sport

The **Playwright** writes the script. Sometimes it is from an original idea and sometimes it is adapted from a book or story. The Playwright decides what the characters say, and gives the Designers guidelines on how the play should look.

The **Director** creates the vision for the production and works closely with the actors, costume, set and lighting designers to make sure everyone tells the same story.



Stage Manager -  
Stacey Renee  
Norwood  
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Actors** use their bodies and voices to bring the author's words and the director's ideas to life on the stage.

The **Designers** imagine and create the lights, scenery, props, costumes and sound that will compliment and complete the director's vision.

The **Stage Manager** assists the director during rehearsals by recording their instructions and making sure the actors and designers understand these ideas. The Stage Manager then runs the show during each performance by calling cues for lights and sound, as well as entrances and exits.



Sound Designer -  
Britt Sanducky  
Photo: Rob Jones



Costume Designer -  
Denise Warner  
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Shop** and **Stage Crew** builds the set, props and costumes according to the designer's plans. The Stage Crew sets the stage with props and furniture, assists the actors with costume changes and operates sound, lighting and stage machinery during each performance.



Creative Team of The Merry Wives of  
Windsor  
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Front of House Staff** welcomes you to the theater, takes your tickets, helps you find your seat and answers any question you may have on the day of performance.

The **Theater** is where it all takes place. Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF is the only professional, classical theater company in Central Florida, reaching students and audiences in the surrounding eight counties.

### Mission:

To enrich our community with engaging professional theater, inspiring educational experiences, and thought-provoking new plays.

# *Aesop's Fables*

## Enjoying Live Theater

### **The Actor/Audience Relationship**

The Audience is the reason Live Theater exists. At Orlando Shakes, we cherish the Actor/Audience relationship, the unique give and take that exists during a performance which makes the audience an ACTIVE participant in the event. The actors see the audience just as the audience sees the actors, and every, laugh, snuffle, chuckle and gasp the audience makes effects the way the actor plays his next moment. We want you to be engaged, and to live the story with us!

There are certain Conventions of the Theatrical Event, like, when the lights go down you know that the show is about to start, and that the audience isn't encouraged to come and go during a performance. Here are some other tips to help you and your classmates be top notch audience members:

- Please make sure to turn off your cell phones. And NO TEXTING!
- Please stay in your seat. Use the restroom before you take your seat and stay in your seat unless there is an emergency.
- Please do not eat or drink in the theater.





## *Aesop's Fables*

### About the Author

**Aesop**, the supposed author of a collection of Greek fables, almost certainly a legendary figure. Various attempts were made in ancient times to establish him as an actual personage. Herodotus in the 5th century BCE said that he had lived in the 6th century and that he was a slave, and Plutarch in the 1st century CE made him adviser to Croesus, the 6th-century-BCE king of Lydia. One tradition holds that he came from Thrace, while a later one styles him a Phrygian. Other sources supposed that he was Ethiopian. An Egyptian biography of the 1st century CE places him on the island of Samos as a slave who gained his freedom from his master, thence going to Babylon as riddle solver to King Lycurgus and, finally, meeting his death at Delphi. The probability is that Aesop was no more than a name invented to provide an author for fables centering on beasts, so that “a story of Aesop” became synonymous with “fable.” The importance of fables lay not so much in the story told as in the moral derived from it.



*Source: Encyclopedia Britannica*

# *Aesop's Fables*

## About the Play: The Fables

***There are 725 fables! Our play and this guide will only focus on the most popular fables.***

### **The Shepherd Boy & the Wolf (The Boy Who Cried Wolf)**

A Shepherd Boy tended his master's Sheep near a dark forest not far from the village. Soon he found life in the pasture very dull. All he could do to amuse himself was to talk to his dog or play on his shepherd's pipe.

One day as he sat watching the Sheep and the quiet forest, and thinking what he would do should he see a Wolf, he thought of a plan to amuse himself.

His Master had told him to call for help should a Wolf attack the flock, and the Villagers would drive it away. So now, though he had not seen anything that even looked like a Wolf, he ran toward the village shouting at the top of his voice, "Wolf! Wolf!"

As he expected, the Villagers who heard the cry dropped their work and ran in great excitement to the pasture. But when they got there they found the Boy doubled up with laughter at the trick he had played on them.

A few days later the Shepherd Boy again shouted, "Wolf! Wolf!" Again the Villagers ran to help him, only to be laughed at again.

Then one evening as the sun was setting behind the forest and the shadows were creeping out over the pasture, a Wolf really did spring from the underbrush and fall upon the Sheep.

In terror the Boy ran toward the village shouting "Wolf! Wolf!" But though the Villagers heard the cry, they did not run to help him as they had before. "He cannot fool us again," they said.

The Wolf killed a great many of the Boy's sheep and then slipped away into the forest.

Liars are not believed even when they speak the truth.

*Source: The Aesop for Children*



# *Aesop's Fables*

## About the Play: The Fables

### **The Goose & the Golden Egg (The Goose Who Laid The Golden Egg)**

There was once a Countryman who possessed the most wonderful Goose you can imagine, for every day when he visited the nest, the Goose had laid a beautiful, glittering, golden egg.

The Countryman took the eggs to market and soon began to get rich. But it was not long before he grew impatient with the Goose because she gave him only a single golden egg a day. He was not getting rich fast enough.

Then one day, after he had finished counting his money, the idea came to him that he could get all the golden eggs at once by killing the Goose and cutting it open. But when the deed was done, not a single golden egg did he find, and his precious Goose was dead.

Those who have plenty want more and so lose all they have.

*Source: The Aesop for Children*





# *Aesop's Fables*

## About the Play: The Fables

### **The Hare & the Tortoise (The Tortoise and The Hare)**

A Hare was making fun of the Tortoise one day for being so slow.

"Do you ever get anywhere?" he asked with a mocking laugh.

"Yes," replied the Tortoise, "and I get there sooner than you think. I'll run you a race and prove it."

The Hare was much amused at the idea of running a race with the Tortoise, but for the fun of the thing he agreed. So the Fox, who had consented to act as judge, marked the distance and started the runners off.

The Hare was soon far out of sight, and to make the Tortoise feel very deeply how ridiculous it was for him to try a race with a Hare, he lay down beside the course to take a nap until the Tortoise should catch up.

The Tortoise meanwhile kept going slowly but steadily, and, after a time, passed the place where the Hare was sleeping. But the Hare slept on very peacefully; and when at last he did wake up, the Tortoise was near the goal. The Hare now ran his swiftest, but he could not overtake the Tortoise in time.

The race is not always to the swift.

*Source: The Aesop for Children*



# *Aesop's Fables*

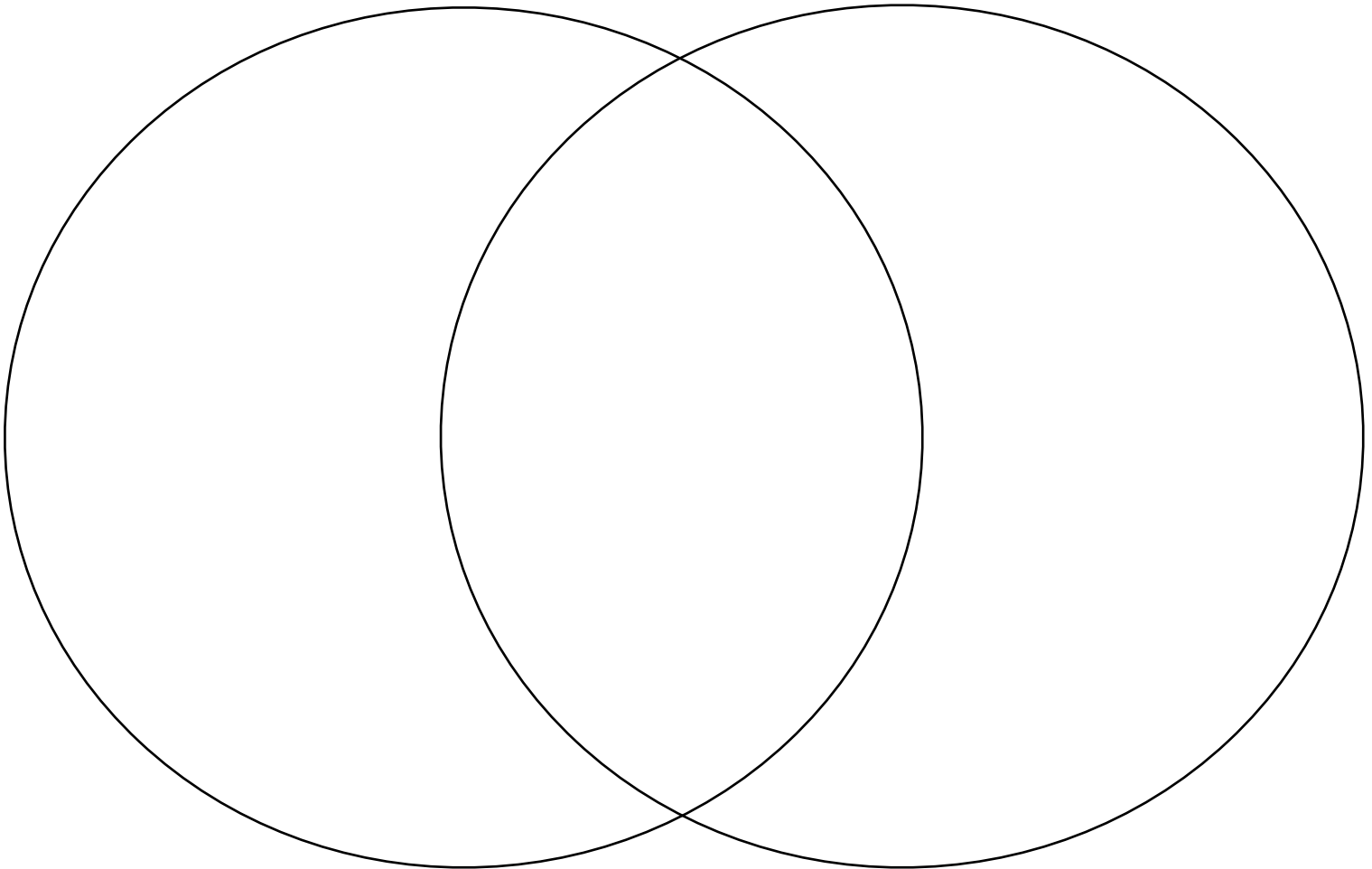
## Story Comparison

1. Read the three fables in this guide aloud in class. Discuss the fables together.
2. Have students compare the story of the fables to that of the play using the venn diagram below.
3. Compare your diagram to other students.

**Just About the Fables**

**About Both**

**Just About the Play**



# *Aesop's Fables*

## Discussion Questions

### ***Asking questions that lead students up the “thinking ladder”.***

Use the following pattern in asking questions:

1. Ask OPEN questions to encourage and engage children.
2. Ask FOCUSED questions to elicit and organize specific information
3. Ask CONNECTING questions to help children learn to see the relationships between events, characters and ideas.
4. Ask broad questions to help children GENERALIZE/ learn to draw conclusions.
5. Accept, record and read all responses on the board, chart or overhead for all to see.

#### **OPEN question examples:**

- What did you notice at the play today....What did you see?
- What about the play was different from the book/story?
- What surprised you?
- What impressed you?

#### **FOCUSED questions:** (questions that probe children’s’ insights)

- What was the Boy Who Cried Wolf struggling with?
- How did he handle that struggle?

#### **ANALYZING/CONNECTING questions:**

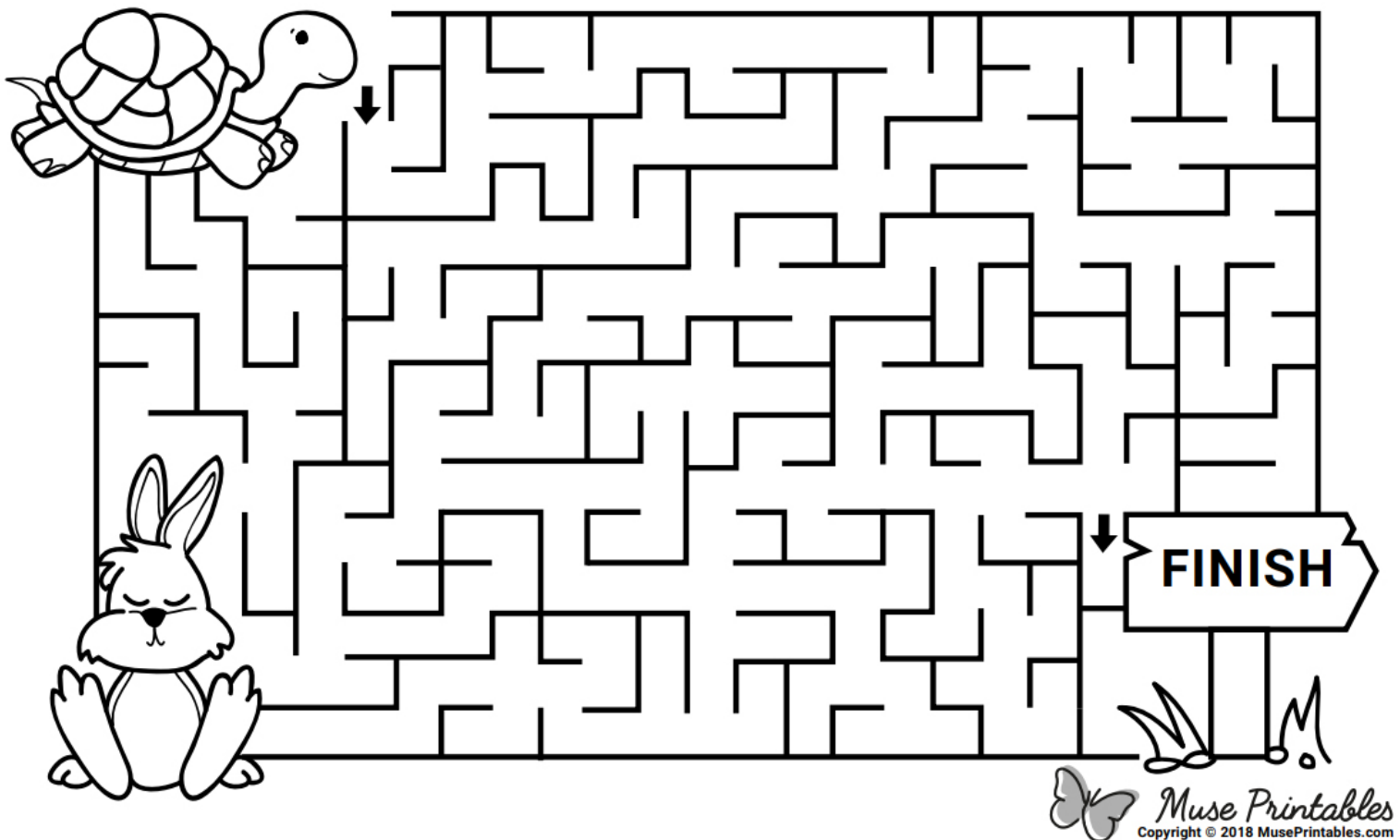
- What lesson did the Boy Who Cried Wolf learn?
- What lesson did the Hare learn?

## The Tortoise and The Hare Maze

Would you rather compete the maze **as fast as you can** or **slow and steady**? Remember, the race is not always to the swift.

# The Tortoise and The Hare Maze

Help the tortoise reach the finish line to win the race. Be careful to not wake the hare.



# Aesop's Fables

## Friendly Letter Writing

### Friendly Letter Writing

We love to hear from you at Orlando Shakes! So write us a letter to let us know what you thought! Introduce your topic, state your opinion, supply a reason for your opinion and close the letter. Follow to format below to include a heading, salutation, body, closing, and signature. Format an envelope according to the picture and send it our way. Teacher and parent comments are also appreciated! Thank you!

**From:**

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_, Zip \_\_\_\_\_


**Dear Orlando Shakespeare Theater,**



**Sincerely,**

Sign Name \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name _____	
Street Address _____	
City _____, State _____, Zip _____	
<b>Orlando Shakespeare Theater ATTN: Education Department 812 East Rollins Street Orlando, FL 32803</b>	