

Monday

## Learning Question:

How can I write my own chosen fable?

## Success Criteria:

- Identify features and language used in fables.
- Compare and contrast different fables.
- Identify and use powerful adjectives and verbs.
- Use speech throughout own story.
- Understand that each fable ends with a lesson or moral.
- Be able to use a planner to organise own fable.
- Write a fable with a clear ending moral.

## Vocabulary



## Our targets today !

- Understand what a fable is
- Recognise lessons and morals being taught within these,

# What is a Fable?

- Fables are simple, traditional tales with a moral or lesson.
- They were told thousands of years ago by storytellers in countries like Greece.
- Characters are usually animals who behaved as humans. They often have special qualities. The fox is usually cunning, the owl wise and the lion, powerful.



## What makes Aesop's fables different...

- Aesop was a slave in ancient Greece. He was a keen observer of both animals and people. Most of the characters in his stories are animals, some of which take on human characteristics and are personified in ways of speech and emotions. However, the majority of his characters retain their animalistic qualities; tortoises are slow, hares are quick, tigers eat birds, etc. Aesop uses these qualities and natural tendencies of animals to focus on human traits and wisdom. Each fable has an accompanying moral to be learned from the tale.

# Read these short fables. What do you think the moral is?



## The thirsty Ant

An ant went to the bank of a river to drink. It was very thirsty. It fell into the water and was swept away. It could not swim and was on the point of drowning. A Dove sitting on a tree overhanging the water plucked a leaf with her beak and let it fall into the stream close to the ant. The Ant climbed onto it and floated in safety to the bank. Shortly afterwards a bird catcher came and stood under the tree, and laid his net out for the Dove, which sat in the branches. The Ant, seeing what he was up to, stung him in the foot. In pain the bird catcher threw down the net, and the noise made the Dove fly away.

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## The Stag at the Pool

A stag, gazing at his reflection in a pool, remarked, "What glorious antlers I have. But my legs are so skinny!" At that moment the stag heard a pack of hunters and hounds approaching. His long legs helped him flee into a thick wood, but his antlers became entangled in the branches. Struggle as he might, he was trapped - and the hounds and hunters closed in.

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## The Monkey and the Dolphin

A monkey fell from a ship and was rescued by a dolphin. The dolphin asked if he lived nearby. The monkey lied and said that he did. "Do you know Seriphos?" asked the dolphin. The monkey, thinking Seriphos was a person's name, boasted that it was his best friend. As Seriphos was a town, the dolphin knew the monkey was lying, so he dived, leaving him to swim to shore.

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# Read these short fables. What do you think the moral is?

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## The Lion and the Mouse

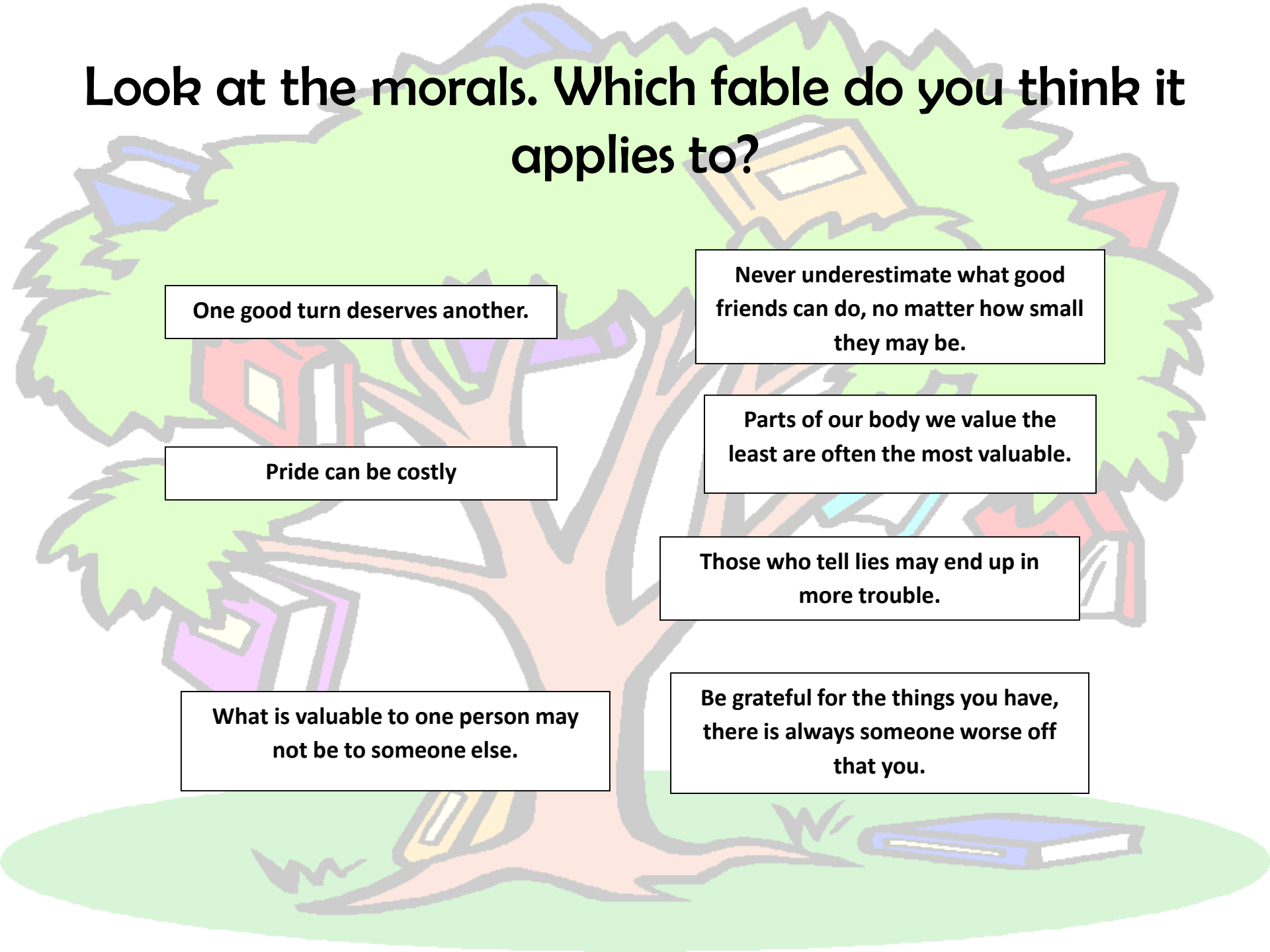


Once a lion trapped a mouse under his large paw. The mouse pleaded for his life, so the lion let it go. Later the lion became entangled in a hunter's net and roared in distress. The mouse rushed to help. "You're too small to help," said the lion. But the mouse nibbled at the net until the lion was free.



## The Cockerel and the Jewel

On a farm lived a fine young rooster. He liked to scratch about the hay in the farmyard, where he found insects and titbits to eat. One day his claw flicked up a bright jewel which had fallen amongst the hay. The rooster tossed it aside, saying to himself, "A grain of golden corn would have been better."



**Look at the morals. Which fable do you think it applies to?**

**One good turn deserves another.**

**Never underestimate what good friends can do, no matter how small they may be.**

**Pride can be costly**

**Parts of our body we value the least are often the most valuable.**

**Those who tell lies may end up in more trouble.**

**What is valuable to one person may not be to someone else.**

**Be grateful for the things you have, there is always someone worse off than you.**



# Aesop's Fable: The Lion and the Mouse

10 Once, when a mighty lion was asleep, a little mouse  
19 began running up and down upon him; this soon  
29 wakened the lion, who placed his huge paw upon him  
39 and opened his big jaws to swallow him. "Pardon, O  
50 King, forgive me," cried the little mouse. "One day I may  
63 be able to help you." The lion was so tickled at this idea  
74 that he lifted up his paw and let the mouse go.

85 Some time after, the lion was caught in a trap. Just  
97 then, the tiny mouse passed by. He saw the sad plight of  
109 the lion so went to help. He soon gnawed away the ropes  
120 that bound the King of the Beasts. "Was I not right?"  
123 said the mouse.

129 Little friends may prove great friends.



## Quick Questions



1. How else could the author have written the moral?

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2. Find **two** synonyms used to describe the lion or the mouse.

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3. Why was the lion 'tickled' at the idea of the mouse helping him one day?

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4. Who caught the lion in a trap? Why?

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