

# Fables and Central Meaning

Life can be hard and filled with mistakes. A long time ago, people used fables to teach you how to live your life so that you didn't make these mistakes. Fables are very short stories that help teach us lessons.

## Vocabulary

<b>Moral</b>	A life lesson that can be learned from a fable. <b>HAS NO ANIMALS</b>
<b>Theme</b>	The overall subject that a story is about. Examples are "Love, War, Friendship, Hard work, etc."
<b>Anthropomorphic</b>	An animal that behaves like a human.

## How to Read a Fable

1. Identify the characters and their traits.
2. Sequence the story's events.
3. Determine the moral that the story is teaching.



## The Grasshopper and the Ant

One time in late fall a Grasshopper spied a group of Ants busily working in the field. He hopped over to them and asked, "Would you like to dance to my music?" The ants looked at him. They said, "You should not be playing around. Winter is coming and you should gather food like us." The Grasshopper laughed, "Oh your foolish Ants, you can always work tomorrow!" The Ants turned away and continued to work as the Grasshopper played his violin and danced. The next day dark clouds came in and laid down a blanket of snow. The Grasshopper, left without food knocked on the Ants door, begging for food. The Ants called through the door, "We cannot share, we haven't enough." The Grasshopper hopped away and perished from starvation.

# Fable Elements

## Character Traits

Think of these traits when describing behaviors and actions.

Active	Careful	Cowardly	Fair	Loyal
Adventurous	Caring	Cruel	Foolish	Stubborn
Loving	Charming	Curious	Generous	Picky
Nervous	Childish	Jealous	Hopeful	Proud
Bossy	Competitive	Greedy	Ignorant	Respectful
Boastful	Confident	Creative	Impatient	Responsible
Brave	Understanding	Dishonest	Impolite	Selfish
Calm	Helpful	Determined	Independent	Sneaky

## Themes

These are common themes in writing. Think about the idea behind the story.

Acceptance	Courage	Perseverance	Cooperation
Honesty	Kindness	Loyalty	Friendship
Compassion	Fairness	Survival	Jealousy
Peace	Being Yourself	Fear	Hope

## Morals

These are the life lessons you learn from a fable.

### Questions to ask:

1. What mistakes did the character make?
2. What actions helped the character?
3. How could I change my actions to not make mistakes like the character?

# Fables and Central Meaning

Who are the **characters** and what **traits** do they have?

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**Sequence** the important events of the story.

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Identify the **theme** of the story and explain your reasoning.

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Infer the **moral** of the story.

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