

Jenny Clyde | Session 1:

Staging Aesop's Fox Fables

List of Required Supplies: Choose three Fox Fables from Aesop stories found in books from the library or online stories (not videos) (recommendations are *The Fox and the Grapes*, *The Fox and the Stork*, and *The Fox and the Crow*), Words to Know (attached), page paper, and writing or coloring supplies

Space/Facility Requirements: open floor space

Student Time Required: 60 minutes

Additional Links: read.gov/Aesop

Step-by-step Instructions

Become familiar with the stories.

Use the Words to Know sheet and read information on Aesop, moral, and fable with students using age-appropriate language. Do the students know the story of the Tortoise and the Hare? The story is one of Aesop's Fables.

Read about the characters, plot, and setting. Have students give examples of characters and settings from their favorite books or movies. Tell them ahead of reading to look for the moral, characters, and settings in the Fox Fables.

Read the Fox Fables you selected. Ask questions as you read to check for understanding. These are old stories, so there may be some unfamiliar words. Don't worry, students will use their own words for the staged version.

After reading each story, students identify the moral, characters, and settings. They can point to pictures and text, or call out answers. Students give a retelling of each story in their own words. This should show simple understanding of the story. If needed, ask questions such as, "Then what happened? What did the fox learn? How do you think the crow felt?"

To conclude the session, students choose one of the stories and draw their own version of it. This can be simple or more elaborate depending on the child. The drawing should show an understanding of characters, plot (beginning, middle, and end), and setting.

Take a wiggle break or a snack break, if needed, before or after reading the stories. Meet the kids where they are and have fun.

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Words to Know

Aesop is given credit for writing the stories known as Aesop’s fables. Not much is known about him. He may have been born in 620 B.C. near Greece. Others say he was born in Ethiopia. He may not have existed at all. Supposedly, he was an enslaved man who was famous for telling stories. We do know that these stories were passed down through word of mouth and are still told today.

Fable – A fable is a short story that usually uses animals as characters to teach a lesson.



Moral – The moral is a lesson that can be learned from a story.

Look for the moral in each Fox story.

Characters are the people, animals, and/or objects that play a part in a story. Characters tell us who or what.



Plot is the series of events in a story. Plot tells us what happens.

Setting is the place and/or time of the story. Setting tells us where and when.



- What are some characters from your favorite stories?
- What are the settings from your favorite stories?
- After reading, find the characters and settings of each Fox story.