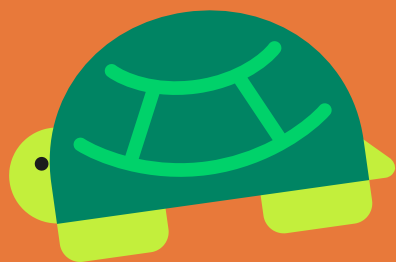


GRADES 1-4 · READER

Fables from Around the World

Eight short fables with questions about the moral.



100% FREE PDF

10 pages · syllabus · answer key included



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Fables from Around the World



Eight original fables inspired by storytelling traditions from many countries, each with comprehension questions on the lesson.

How to use this workbook

Work through the chapters in order, or jump to the skill your child needs most.
Each skill has three different sheets (A, B and C) so you can practise, review and test.
Do one or two sheets a day. Short, regular practice works better than long sessions.
Check answers using the answer key at the back of the book, then talk about any mistakes.
Print the pages you need on A4 or Letter paper; scale to fit if your printer asks.

What your child will learn

The Crow Who Shared
The Ant and the Dewdrop
The Heron and the Frogs
The Tortoise and the Monsoon

The Fox and the Fishing Net
The Peacock and the Wren
The Two Lanterns
The Boy and the River Stones

This workbook is free to print for home and classroom use. It may not be sold or republished. More free books and worksheets: printableworksheetsforkids.pages.dev

Syllabus: what is inside

Welcome and how to use this book**p. 1**

How the workbook works and what your child will learn

1 Easier fables**p. 3–5**

The Crow Who Shared · The Ant and the Dewdrop · The Heron and the Frogs

2 Middle fables**p. 6–8**

The Tortoise and the Monsoon · The Fox and the Fishing Net · The Peacock and the Wren

3 Longer fables**p. 9–10**

The Two Lanterns · The Boy and the River Stones

Answer key**p. 11**

Answers for every sheet in the book



The Crow Who Shared

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

Read the story, then answer the questions.

The Crow Who Shared

A fable

In a dry summer, a crow found a fig tree still heavy with fruit. "This is my secret," he thought, and he ate every fig he could reach.

Soon he had eaten so much that he could not fly. He hopped from branch to branch, feeling sleepy and lonely.

The sparrows passed by, hungry and thin. At last the crow called out, "Come and eat! There is plenty!" The birds feasted and sang.

In the next dry season, when the crow's own branch was bare, the sparrows brought him seeds from far-off fields.

1 What did the crow find? ☐ A a fig tree ☐ B a lake ☐ C a nest

2 Why could the crow not fly?

3 What did the crow do at last?

4 How did the sparrows repay him?

5 What is the moral? ☐ A Eat quickly ☐ B Kindness comes back to you

☐ C Keep secrets



The Ant and the Dewdrop

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

Read the story, then answer the questions.

The Ant and the Dewdrop

A fable

It had not rained for weeks. The flower in the meadow drooped, its petals dry.

A tiny ant saw a dewdrop on a leaf. She rolled it carefully in her arms. It shook, it wobbled, but she held on.

Other insects laughed. "One drop won't help!" they said. The ant kept walking.

At last she reached the flower and let the drop fall at its roots. The flower lifted its head just a little. That evening, the clouds rolled in, and the rain began.

1 Who carried the dewdrop? ☐ A an ant ☐ B a bee ☐ C a beetle

2 Why did the other insects laugh?

3 What happened when the ant reached the flower?

4 Which word describes the ant? ☐ A determined ☐ B lazy ☐ C scared

5 What is the moral? ☐ A Little efforts matter ☐ B Flowers are fragile

☐ C Ants are strong



The Heron and the Frogs

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

Read the story, then answer the questions.

The Heron and the Frogs

A fable

A heron stood at the edge of a pond, hungry. "Frogs, come and sit on my back," he called sweetly. "I'll take you somewhere safe."

The oldest frog narrowed her eyes. "Safe for whom?" she asked.

That night, the frogs gathered reeds and wove a thick net across the water. When the heron stepped in the next morning, his legs stuck fast.

He flapped and squawked, but the frogs hopped away to the far bank, safe and laughing.

1 What did the heron want? ☐ A to catch frogs ☐ B to swim ☐ C to build a nest

2 What did the oldest frog ask?

3 What did the frogs do to the pond?

4 How did the story end? ☐ A The heron was stuck and the frogs escaped

☐ B The frogs were eaten ☐ C The pond dried up

5 What is the moral? ☐ A Don't trust sweet words from someone who wants to harm you

☐ B Frogs live in ponds ☐ C Herons are tall



The Tortoise and the Monsoon

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

Read the story, then answer the questions.

The Tortoise and the Monsoon

A fable

Before the rains, the hare laughed at the tortoise. “While you drag stones to your burrow, I’ll be eating clover!” he said.

The tortoise said nothing. Day after day she patched her burrow with mud and stacked stones against the door.

When the monsoon struck, rain poured in sheets. The hare’s burrow flooded, and he had to flee in the dark.

He knocked on the tortoise’s door, shivering. She let him in. “Slow work,” she said, “keeps the water out.”

1 What did the hare do before the rains? ☐ A worked hard

☐ B laughed at the tortoise ☐ C built a boat

2 What did the tortoise do to her burrow?

3 What happened to the hare’s burrow?

4 Why did the tortoise stay dry?

5 What is the moral? ☐ A Slow people win races ☐ B Preparing early protects you later

☐ C Never laugh at hares



The Fox and the Fishing Net

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

Read the story, then answer the questions.

The Fox and the Fishing Net

A fable

A fox saw fishermen leave their nets on the shore. “Free fish!” he thought, and he crept closer.

A heron warned him: “That net is not yours. Fishermen will be back soon.” The fox sneered. “Mind your own business.”

He pulled a fish from the net — and his paw caught in the cords. The more he struggled, the more tangled he became.

The fishermen found him there at dawn. Though they let him go, the fox limped home with a sore leg and a lesson he never forgot.

1 What did the fox want? ☐ A the heron's nest ☐ B free fish ☐ C a boat

2 What did the heron say?

3 Why did the fox get tangled?

4 Which trait describes the fox? ☐ A greedy ☐ B shy ☐ C generous

5 What is the moral? ☐ A Take what is not yours and you may pay

☐ B Herons give good gifts ☐ C Fish are free



The Peacock and the Wren

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

Read the story, then answer the questions.

The Peacock and the Wren

A fable

“Look at my tail!” the peacock cried. “I am the most beautiful bird in the forest, and so I am the most important.”

The wren said, “Beauty is nice, but I can fit into places you cannot.”

That night, a baby snake slid into the nest of a dove. The peacock's great tail got caught in the thorn bush as he tried to help. But the wren slipped through the thorns, woke the dove, and the snake fled.

In the morning the peacock bowed his head. “I was wrong,” he said. “Everyone has a gift.”

1 What was the peacock proud of?

2 Why could the peacock not help? ☐ A His tail was caught in thorns

☐ B He was asleep ☐ C He was afraid of snakes

3 What did the wren do?

4 How did the peacock change? ☐ A He became more humble ☐ B He grew angrier

☐ C He learnt to hide

5 What is the moral? ☐ A Everyone has a gift ☐ B Snakes are scary

☐ C Thorns are sharp



The Two Lanterns

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

Read the story, then answer the questions.

The Two Lanterns

A fable

In a village at the edge of a forest, two lanterns hung at the gate. The first was made of gleaming brass and burned with a flame so bright it dazzled travellers.

The second was a plain paper lantern that gave only a soft, steady light. “You’re hardly worth lighting,” sneered the brass lantern.

But by midnight, the brass flame had burned through its oil and gone dark. The paper lantern, which used its oil carefully, was still glowing at dawn.

A weary traveller found his way home by its gentle light. Looking up, he said, “The one that lasts is the one that serves.”

1 What was the brass lantern like?

2 Why did the paper lantern last until dawn?

3 Which word best describes the brass lantern? ☐ A boastful ☐ B gentle

☐ C patient

4 What did the traveller do? ☐ A Followed the paper lantern's light home

☐ B Bought the brass lantern ☐ C Slept at the gate

5 What is the moral? ☐ A Steady and reliable beats flashy ☐ B Brass is better than paper

☐ C Keep lanterns dark



The Boy and the River Stones

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

Read the story, then answer the questions.

The Boy and the River Stones

A fable

Every morning, Kai walked to the river and carried home one smooth stone. His neighbours asked, “What good is one stone?”

He said nothing and kept on. Spring turned to summer, summer to autumn. Slowly his pile grew.

When the winter floods came, the river burst its banks. Water rushed toward the village. Kai and his neighbours piled the stones into a wall at the lowest point of the road.

The wall held. The village stayed dry. “One stone,” Kai told them, “is no good. But a thousand days of one stone is a wall.”

1 What did Kai bring home each morning?

2 Why did neighbours question him? ☐ A They thought one stone was useless

☐ B They wanted the stones ☐ C They were jealous

3 How did the stones help in winter?

4 Which word best describes Kai? ☐ A persistent ☐ B careless ☐ C greedy

5 Explain the moral in your own words.

Ch. 1 · The Crow Who Shared

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. A – a fig tree | 3. He invited the other birds to eat. | 4. They brought him seeds. | 5. B – Kindness comes back to you |
| 2. He had eaten too many figs. | | | |

Ch. 1 · The Ant and the Dewdrop

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| 1. A – an ant | 3. She let the drop fall at its roots and the flower lifted its head. | 4. A – determined |
| 2. They thought one drop would not help. | | 5. A – Little efforts matter |

Ch. 1 · The Heron and the Frogs

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. A – to catch frogs | 4. A – The heron was stuck and the frogs escaped | 5. A – Don't trust sweet words from someone who wants to harm you |
| 2. Safe for whom? | | |
| 3. They wove a net of reeds. | | |

Ch. 2 · The Tortoise and the Monsoon

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. B – laughed at the tortoise | 3. It flooded. | 5. B – Preparing early protects you later |
| 2. She patched it with mud and stacked stones. | 4. She had prepared in advance. | |

Ch. 2 · The Fox and the Fishing Net

- | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. B – free fish | 2. That the net was not his and the fishermen would return. | 3. His paw caught in the cords when he took the fish. | 5. A – Take what is not yours and you may pay |
| | | 4. A – greedy | |

Ch. 2 · The Peacock and the Wren

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. His beautiful tail. | 3. She slipped through the thorns and woke the dove. | 4. A – He became more humble |
| 2. A – His tail was caught in thorns | | 5. A – Everyone has a gift |

Ch. 3 · The Two Lanterns

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Very bright but it burned out. | 2. It used its oil carefully. | 4. A – Followed the paper lantern's light home | 5. A – Steady and reliable beats flashy |
| | 3. A – boastful | | |

Ch. 3 · The Boy and the River Stones

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. One stone from the river. | 3. They were made into a wall that kept the floodwater out. | 5. Small steps repeated over time can achieve big things. |
| 2. A – They thought one stone was useless | 4. A – persistent | |