

Name: Class: Date:

Fables

A fable is a story which shows something in life or has a meaning to a word. It is a funny story and you can learn a moral from it. Many fables are well-known. Animals are often used in fables, they always keep the same character in the stories.

- animals and plants are "people"
- topics of the fables are human weaknesses eg greed, envy, stupidity and vanity etc.
- usually there are only *two animals* in a fable
- *no exact time* in the fable
- *no exact place* in the fable
- fables are *short*
- fables do not have any exact descriptions
- they are in the *past tense*
- they deal (haben zu tun) with the real life of human beings
- some fables criticize important people indirectly eg kings
- fables have a moral at the end

Fables have three parts - the beginning (title, description of situation), statement and contradiction (argument, discussion (Gegenrede)), solution (solution and moral of fable).

Not all fables contain all three parts.

Example:

Fox and Crow

A crow took a piece of cheese out of a cottage window and flew up into a high tree to eat it. A fox came and saw this and sat underneath the tree. He began to tell the crow how beautiful she was. He said, "Your feathers are so white and your body is so graceful. No bird is more beautiful than you are. Your voice is also tolerable." The crow was very flattered but decided to show the fox that she had a good voice. She began to sing and at the same time dropped the cheese out of her mouth. The fox took this and laughed at the crow. How gullible she was!

Moral:

Most people like to hear nice things about themselves but be careful! Maybe the person who is saying this has a different motive.

Vocabulary:

cottage - small house in the country

flattered - compliments in order to win favor.

gullible - easily taken in or tricked