

Inference Activities



GOOD ADVICE, IN SMALL DOSES

Good Advice, in Small Doses



- Adults sometimes complain that today's kids have a very short attention spans and that they want to hear everything in short sound bites. But did you know that Aesop was dispensing good advice in small doses more than 2,000 years ago?

Good Advice, in Small Doses



- According to legend, Aesop was born a slave, but as freed because of his wit and intelligence. Aesop's fables are a collection of very short stories that illustrate a moral lesson. You've probably heard his fables about the Ant and the Grasshopper or the Tortoise and the Hare.
- Here are fables you may not know. Read them and make inferences to guess the moral of each fable. Explain your answers.

The Four Oxen and the Lion



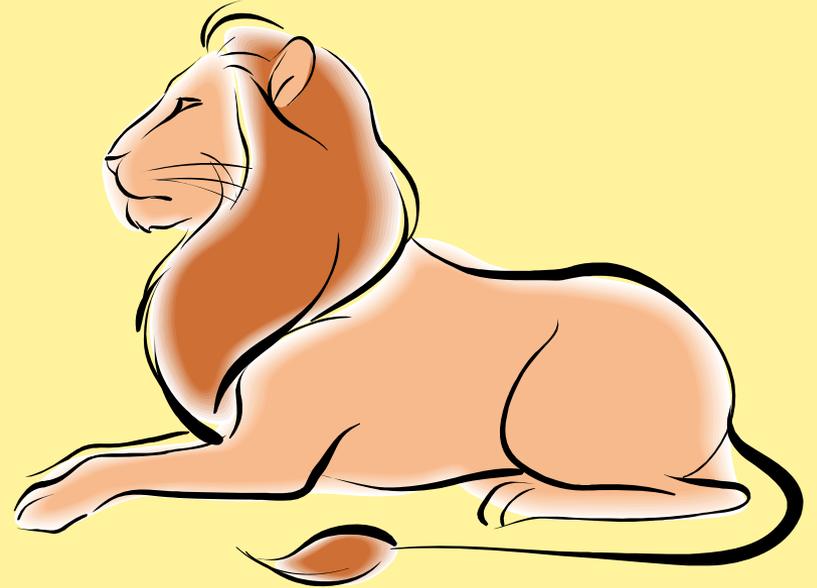
- A Lion used to prowl about a field in which Four Oxen used to dwell. Many a time he tried to attack them; but whenever he came near they turned their tails to one another, so that whichever way he approached them he was met by the horns of one of them. At last, however, they fell a quarrelling among themselves, and each went off to pasture alone in a separate corner of the field. Then the Lion attacked them one by one and soon made an end of all four.

What do you think



- The moral of the story is:

- I know this because:



The Frogs and the Well



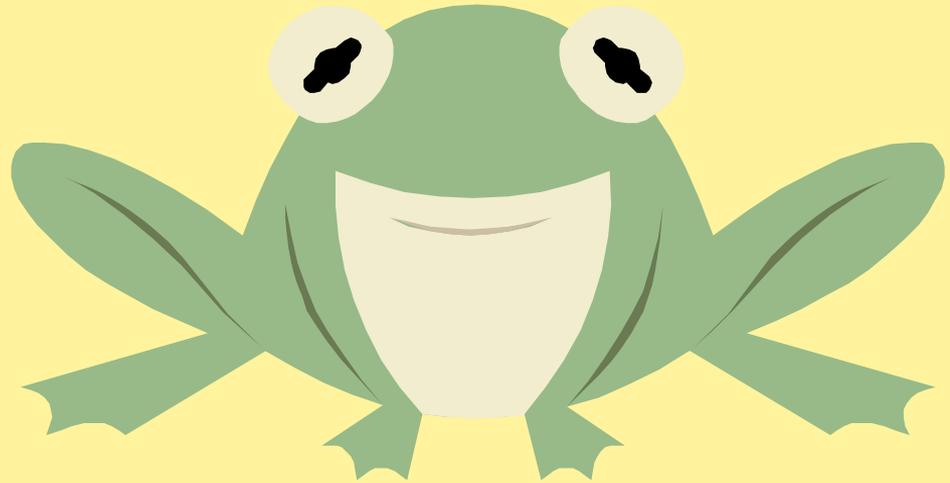
- Two Frogs lived together in a marsh. But one hot summer the marsh dried up, and they left it to look for another place to live in: for frogs like damp places if they can get them. By and by they came to a deep well, and one of them looked down into it, and said to the other, “This looks a nice cool place. Let us jump in and settle here.” But the other, who has a wiser head on his shoulders, replied, “Not so fast, my friend. Supposing this well dried up like the marsh, how should we get out again?”

You write...



- The moral of this story is:

- I know this because:



The Boy and the Filberts



- A boy put his hand into a pitcher full of filberts. He grasped as many as he could possibly hold, but when he tried to pull out his hand, he was prevented from doing so by the neck of the pitcher. Unwilling to lose his filberts, and yet unable to withdraw his hand, he burst into tears and bitterly lamented his disappointment. A bystander said to him, “Be satisfied with half the quantity, and you will readily draw out your hand.”



Write it down:



- The moral of the story is:

- I know this because:



ARE YOU READY?



- Now you will write a fable on your own,
- Remember to keep it short and to describe a situation in which the reader can infer the moral of the story.
- Write the moral for your story on the sheet of paper you were using.

