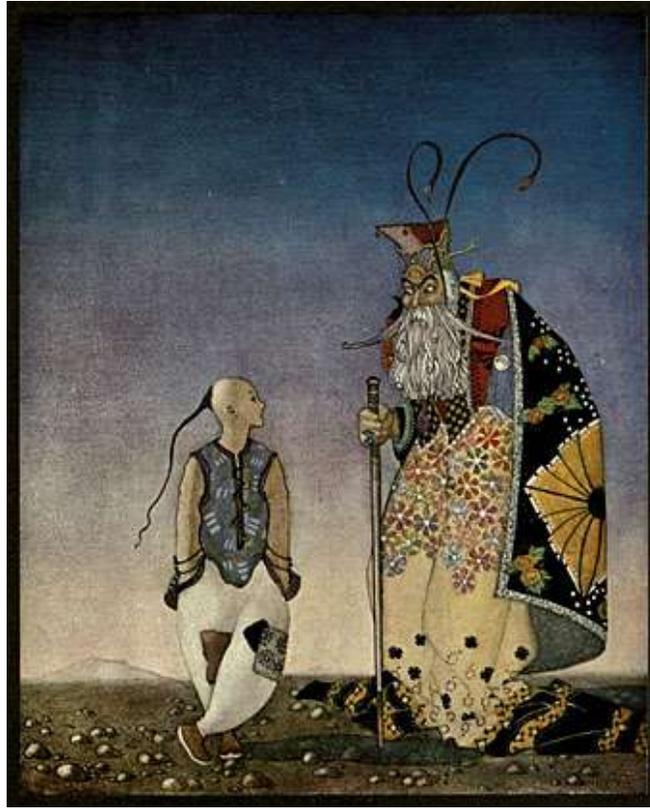


MY NAME IS _____

MY CLASS IS _____

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LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE
Vol. III

Tales from Persia and the West

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SOUTH KOREA

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Aladdin - Thomas Mackenzie - 1919

LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE
VOL III

Tales from Persia and the West

Edited by Courtney Webb, MA

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FABLES AND TALES

Aesop's Fables



Illustration - Charles H. Bennett - 1857

The Ant and the Grasshopper - Jean de la Fontaine "Fables"

One summer's day, a merry Grasshopper was dancing, singing and playing his violin with all his heart. He saw an Ant passing by, bearing along with great toil a wheatear to store for the winter.

"Come and sing with me instead of working so hard", said the Grasshopper "Let's have fun together."

"I must store food for the winter", said the Ant, "and I advise you to do the same."

"Don't worry about winter, it's still very far away", said the Grasshopper, laughing at him. But the Ant wouldn't listen and continued his toil.

When the winter came, the starving Grasshopper went to the Ant's house and humbly begged for something to eat.

"If you had listened to my advice in the summer you would not now be in need," said the Ant. "I'm afraid you will have to go supperless to bed," and he closed the door.

It is best to prepare for the days of necessity.

1) What is the 'lesson' from the *Grasshopper and the Ant*?

2) Does this happen in your life?

Teacher Resources - You Tube - Disney *Silly Symphonies - The Ant and The Grasshopper* -1935.
Video.

Words

Fable or Tale - a very short story often told with a 'lesson' at the end

Ass - Donkey

Triumph - great success

Bray - the Donkey's laugh

The Ass in the Lions Skin



Stamp from Greece

One day, an Ass found a Lion's skin left in the forest by a hunter, and wishing to amuse himself and to feel powerful, put it on, scaring all the animals he met on his way. He was very proud of himself and felt like a real king. But in his delight, he opened his mouth and brayed in triumph.

The moment he heard the Ass's voice, a Fox who was running frightened as well, stopped suddenly and began to laugh. Approaching the Ass, he exclaimed:

"You could have fooled me, too, had I not heard your bray."

Fine clothes may disguise a fool, but silly words will give him away.

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1) What is the 'lesson' in the Ass in the Lion's skin?

2) Do you know anyone like this?

3) Do you know of any tales or fables like this in your language? _____

Teacher Resources - You Tube - Belinda Daley - *The Ass and the Lion's Skin* - 6/2011



The Crow and the Fox - Iraninan painting

The Crow and the Fox

Words

- Beak - nose of a bird
- Odor - smell
- Handsome - beautiful
- Phoenix- large, beautiful imaginary bird
- Demonstrate - show
- Flatterer - someone who tells you nice things about yourself
- Embarrassed - ashamed

Teacher Resources - You Tube -Lixandro Cordero *Fox and Crow*. 2/2009. Video.

The Crow and The Fox

Master Crow sat on a tree,
Holding a cheese in his beak.
Master Fox was attracted by the odor,
And tried to attract him thus.
"Mister Crow, good day to you.
You are a handsome and good looking bird!
In truth, if your song is as beautiful as your plumage,
You are the Phoenix of this forest."
Hearing these words the Crow felt great joy,
And to demonstrate his beautiful voice,
He opened his mouth wide and let drop his prey.
The Fox seized it and said: "My good Sir,

Know that every flatterer,
Lives at the expense of those who take him seriously:
This is a lesson that is worth a cheese no doubt."

The Crow, embarrassed and confused,
Swore, though somewhat later, that he would never be
tricked thus again.

=====

- 1) Did the fox trick the crow? _____

- 2) How? _____

- 3) What did the Fox want? Did he get it? _____

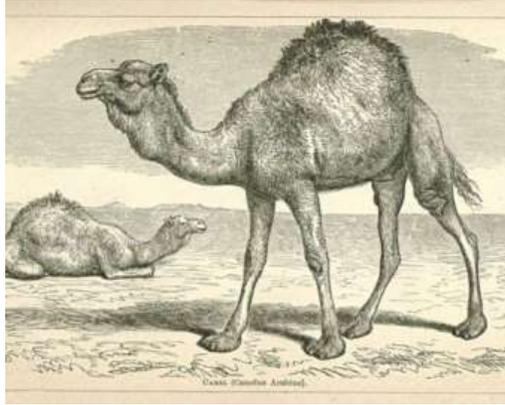
- 4) Was the Crow vain (thinks too well of himself)? Do you know anyone who is like this? _____

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TALES FROM PERSIA

http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/An_argosy_of_fables/Persian_fables

PART II
PERSIAN FABLES



THE CAMEL AND THE RAT

A CAMEL, bound by a foot so that he could not wander, was browsing in a desert. A Rat, finding him without a guardian, decided to take hold of the leash and lead the Camel back to his rat-hole. As the Camel is naturally docile and never balky, he readily followed his new leader. But when they arrived at the threshold of the rat-hole it proved to be much too narrow. "You simpleton!" said the Camel, "what have you done? Don't you see that my body is too big and your home too little? The one will never grow any smaller nor the other bigger. How do you expect to keep me with you?"

Good intentions are useless in the absence of common-sense.

(Jami, The Baharistan.)

1) Was the rat trying to help? _____

2) Why did this not work? _____

3) Was the camel angry? _____



19th century painting of Donkeys - artist unknown

THE CAMEL AND THE ASS

A CAMEL and an Ass were once travelling together. Upon reaching the bank of a river the Camel was the first to enter the water. As it rose somewhat above his knees, but barely touched his body, he called to his companion: "Follow me in, for the water hardly bathes my sides."

"I believe you," rejoined his wise, long-eared friend, "but between us two there is a big difference, and if the water rises to your sides, it would be well over my back."

The wise man refuses to be led beyond his own depth.

(Jami, The Baharistan.)

- 1) What does it mean to be out of your depth? _____
- 2) Are two people always alike or just the _____
same? _____
- 3) What does it mean to take a _____
risk? _____



Johann Elias Ridinger - German artist - 1698-1767

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