



Fables and Folktales of the World



**Told by the students of
152-1 Written Communication**

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Introduction

These stories are classic tales from our childhoods. This collection began as an assignment for our writing class. We enjoyed reading our classmates' stories, and we hope you will also enjoy them and understand the lessons that these fables have for our daily life. We also hope that from these fables you can learn a little bit of the spirit of our cultures.





The Lion and the Three Cows

A fable from Afghanistan told by A. Naweed Aryan

In a green and soft meadow, a brown, a black and a white cow lived happily together. They liked their habitat and each other and most of the times browsed together.

One day a lion came to the meadow and saw the cows. He thought, "This is a good place. I can stay here and hunt the cows. They can provide my food for a long time."

The next day he went to hunt one of the cows but the other two defended their friend and during the battle the Lion was injured and escaped for his life.

"Oh, that was not easy. I was almost killed by those cows. I can not get even a bit of food while these cows are together. I should do something about it," thought the Lion.

The next day the Lion went to the cows and shouted, "Please listen to me. Yesterday I wanted to talk to your friend and he thought that I was going to attack him. So you all attacked me and nearly killed me. I came here for peace."

"You wanted to attack me when I was sleeping. You are lying and we don't believe you," said the White cow.

"No I wasn't going to attack you. I wanted to tell you what I have to tell now."

"So what do you want to say?" said the Brown cow.

"When I saw this place for the first time, I liked it. I just wanted to ask you if you would let me stay here and in return I will protect you against your enemies."

The cows talked to each other and said, "Ok, you can stay here but don't come close too us. We will let you stay here and you will have to protect us."

"Ok, don't be afraid of me. I can hunt small animals and I will never harm you," said the Lion.

So the Lion stayed there for some days. One day he saw that the White cow was browsing farther away the Black and Brown cows. He came to the two cows and said, "You know, I think this place is very nice but it will not remain like this if that fat cow keeps eating the nice grasses. He eats a lot more than you. Also his color is different than you. We are dark and he is white. Let me kill him so there will be enough grass for you."

After some talks the two cows agreed that the Lion could kill their friend and so the Lion attacked and killed him. He ate his meat and had some food for quite a time.

Then another day he saw that the two cows were browsing separately. He came to the Brown cow and said, "I want to be your personal friend but first you have to prove it."

"How can I prove it?" said the Brown cow.

"Well, I thought for quite a while and I found out that I and you are very similar. My color and yours is the same. Let me kill the Black cow so this wonderful place will be for the two friends of one color."

The Brown cow agreed and the Lion attacked and killed the Black cow. He was happy for sometime until he became hungry again. He came to the Brown cow and said, "You are my best friend and of course I am your best friend. Now your best friend is hungry and there is no meat for him except your meat. Get ready to be killed for I am too hungry and can not wait."

The Brown cow knew that he had no defense against the Lion, so he accepted his destiny

and said “Now I know, I was killed the day you killed the White cow.”



Horse Race

A folktale from China told by Jiarui Huang

This story is about horse race between a King and a Minister. The King’s horse is better than the Minister. At last, the Minister still beat the king.

A few days ago, the King made a date with the Minister and decided to do horse race.

King: “Hi, I’ve been ready for this game for a long time. How about you?”

Minister: “Yes, I have prepared for this game.”

King: “Let’s find a place to start it.”

The rule of the game is: everyone has three horses to race and who win the 2 of 3 games will win. (These horses were divided into three levels)

King: “I think I will win you.”

Minister: “It could be. But I have confidence.”

The King used his top-level horse to join the first game. The minister used his lowest horse to join the first game. Of course, the King won.

King: “ Haha, I told you I would beat you.”

Minister: “Ok, let’s continue.”

The second game, the Minster used his top horse to join the game. The King used his medium horse. Finally, the minister won.

King: “Oh, good job. But I do not think you can beat me twice.”

Minister: “Maybe.”

This time the minister used his medium horse to beat the King’s lowest horse.

King: “Ok, you won me. Congratulations.”

Future, the Minister became the King’s right-hand man.



A Kitty Goes Fishing

A fable from China told by Xiao Li

One sunshine morning, two kitties Miao and Mimi with their mother went fishing beside a river. Miao looked her mother's skills for fishing. Then she went fishing carefully. After few minutes, she had many fish. However, the naughty Mimi had no patient. When he dropped hook to the lake, he began to play other things. His mother told him not to play when he was fishing, but he didn't remember. And his younger sister said him: "hey, didn't play anymore, you should pay attention on your fishing." However, he was still play in everywhere. As the same time, one frog saw this situation and it wanted to make joke with Mimi. This frog found one shoe to hook in Mimi's rod. Suddenly, Miao saw this rod shook, "look, it is fish." Mimi turned his head to hold rod and to raise his hand with happiness. On the country, he found it that just one shoe, he was very sad. His mother said, "Did you think it is a big fish? You just had dream because you didn't had patient."

At this time, it is afternoon and the sun rise in very high. Their mother took them to home. Their mother had many fish in her commode and Miao was too. However, Mimi had nothing in his commode. He just had dust on his clothe and face. He was very upset, and then he asked his mother the reason. His mother told him: "You sister was very quiet to go fishing, but you? You just put the rod in the river and do nothing to play everywhere. So this is the reason why you hadn't fish."

At night, Mimi regretted this morning things. Two days went, they went fishing, too. But this day, Mimi had many fish because his mother taught him a lesson. He had already learned, when we do one thing that we should pay an attention on it. That way you will do the better.



Little Horse Crosses the River

A fable from China told by Zhifan Li

Long time ago, there was a little horse, which needed to cross a river. But he didn't know how deep this river was. So he asked a sheep.

"Mr. Sheep," little horse said, "is this river very deep?"

"Yes, my son," sheep said, "If I cross this river, I will die."

After little horse heard that he started crying, because he really needed to cross the river. At the same time, a big cow came and asked, "What's eating you?"

"I can't cross this river Mr. Cow. It is too deep for me," little horse said.

"HA HA HA HA, don't be silly, this river is not deep, I can cross it easily," cow said.

Little horse was confused now, and he decided to ask his mother.

“Mom, I’m not sure if I can cross that river or not,” little horse said, “Because Mr. Sheep said it was deep and Mr. Cow said it was not.”

“Why don’t you just try by yourself?” Mom said.

Then little horse went to the river and tried by himself. Finally he crossed the river.



Lazy Farmer

A folktale from China told by Yang Liu

A farmer lived in the north of China. He fed a lot of sheep in his farm and he lived happily. One day, the farmer’s friend said, “Hey, nice to see you.”

“Nice to see you too.”

“How are you today?”

“I am pretty good. I must tell you a bad thing today.”

The farmer said, “What’s that?”

His friend said, “I saw your barrier is broken. You should fix it as fast as you can, or your sheep will be eaten by wolf.”

The farmer didn’t care about that, and said, “Don’t worry about that. I have too many sheep and I think wolf can’t find my farm.”

So he didn’t fix his barrier. One day, he found all his sheep were killed. He was sad and said, “I should have fixed my barrier earlier.” But it has been too late.



Mr. Dongguo and a wolf

A fable from China told by Baixiao Song

Long time ago, a king and his army went out to hunt. They hurt a wolf’s leg. The wolf was escaping.

On the way, the wolf saw Mr. Dongguo. The wolf said, “Mr. Dongguo, you are so kind-hearted. I was badly hurt. Can you help me to hide from the king? He wanted to kill me. I can hide in your bag.” The wolf was looking at the bag full of books.

Mr. Dongguo pitied the wolf and said, “Come into my bag, I can help you.” Then he took all the books out of the bag.

Few minutes later, the king met Mr. Dongguo. He asked, “Did you see a wolf that was badly hurt? It is a bad guy.”

“I didn’t see it, my lord.” Mr. Dongguo answered.

After the king left, the wolf said, “Mr. Dongguo, you can let me out. I will thank for your help.”

When the wolf came out, it said, “You are so kind. So can you do me a favor one more time? I’m so hungry now, and I don’t have energy to go on escaping. You can be my best dinner. I will really appreciate it.”

Mr. Dongguo was very scared. He regretted saving the wolf. Now, no one can change his fortune. Finally Mr. Dongguo was killed by the wolf.



Bogus Fox, Real Tiger

A fable from China told by Xiaoyu Su

In the forest, the tiger is the king. One day a smart fox comes to his forest and wants to scare the tiger.

“Oh, my lord,” fox said, “you look so powerful and handsome.”

“Who are you?” tiger said.

“I’m the lord of another forest, and I want to go to other countries to show my authority to everyone,” fox said.

“What? I will kill you, little fox,” said tiger.

“Oh, dear tiger, let’s do a public research that will show you my authority and power. If I can’t do it, you can eat me,” fox said.

“Ok, show me your plan,” tiger said.

“It’s simple. I will cross the whole forest and what you need to do is just follow me,” fox said.

“Ok,” tiger said.

Fox walks in front of tiger and the two animals cross the whole forest. Other residents in this forest are not afraid of fox, but they watch the tiger following or close to fox. So they run away after seeing that.

“Now, my friend, you know who has the authority and power. I think I will be the new lord,” fox said.

Tiger goes out without any words.



Crow and fox

A fable from China told by Phoebe (Luyu) Zhang

One day, a crow who was standing in the tree found a piece of meat to prepare for feeding her children. She was very happy to hold it in her mouth.

When the fox saw it, he wanted to get that piece of meat and said, “Good morning Mrs. Crow, how are you doing today?” The crow ignored him.

The fox didn’t want to give up and continued with a smile, “Your voice must be pleasant

to listen to. So could you sing a song for me? I really want to enjoy your song.”

The crow was extremely excited to hear that. She opened her mouth and began to sing. Her voice was really bad. At the same time, the meat dropped out of her mouth to the ground.

The fox picked it up from the ground and went to home. The crow still sang the disgusting song and didn't know she had lost the lunch.



A farmer and a snake

A fable from China told by Hui Zhi

One day, it was very cold and freezing. The wind was very strong and the snow is so heavy. The farmer was walking home from his friend's home. At the time, he found a snake which was numb on the ground. To be a kind person, he said, "It is so pitiful, if it is still lying in the snow, it will die. Even if it bites people, it is a life. I can not see its life going away in front of me. I should save it." Then the farmer picked it up, put it in his coat. He wanted to regain the snake consciousness with his higher temperature.

One of his friends saw that. He said to the farmer, "How dangerous it is. It is in cold blood. It does not have any emotion, after you saving it, it will injure you." But the farmer still did that. When the snake regained consciousness, it bit the farmer's breast by instinct because it felt something warm next to it. When the farmer was at the death's door, he asked the snake, "I saved you. I let you have the life again. If I am not there, you died. And why do you kill me?!" The snake laughed at the farmer, "Stupid people, you know I am cold blood." Then the farmer died. His friend came to his house and found he had died. His friend was grieved for that. He said, "I have told you snake is snake, though you saved it, it still killed you."



Where there is a will, there is a way

A folktale from China told by Weiping Zhou

Once upon time, the older man was living at the foot of the mountains which are two of the highest mountains in the area. People had to take a long way went out of the village, thereupon this man convened all people of this village." We have to remove these mountains," the older man said. "It takes us a long time to get out of here." Everybody agreed with him except his wife.

"Why do you think you can do this," his wife said angrily. "Are you insane?"

The older man let it go and told everybody, "We will carry rocks to the side of the sea, where there is a will, there is a way." He said that strongly.

A villager saw this situation and laughed at him. "You are so foolish," he said, "you are an elder and plus you can't ruin some grass of this mountain. In addition, how can you remove

these rocks?"

The older man took a deep breath. "I am not foolish. I also realize that I can't do this, However, I have a son and grandson. If we die my son has his son." The older man continued, "If we do this all the time, one day we will succeed. The mountain will never grow up."

The guard of this mountain heard this news and worried about he would never stop. Then he went to the God immediately, and told the God everything about the older man. The older man' achievement moved God, and commanded his underling to help him at once.

Since then no mountains have blocked this village, and the people had a happy living.

