

**Your assignment:**

You will read an informational article about fables and then read three fables, taking notes on all of these sources. Then, you will answer several questions about these materials and write your own full-length fable.

**Steps you will be following:**

In order to plan and write your story, you will do all of the following:

1. Listen to an informational video about fables and read three fables.
2. Answer several questions about the sources.
3. Plan, revise, and write a fable.

**Directions for beginning:**

You will now read one article and three fables. Take notes because you may want to refer to your notes while writing your fable. You can refer to any of the sources as often as you like. Your notes and sources will be your basis for writing your final draft.

**Questions**

Use the remaining time to answer the questions. Your answers to these questions will be scored. Also, they will help you think about the sources you've read, which should help you write your fable. You may click on the appropriate buttons to refer to the sources when you think it would be helpful. You may also refer to your notes. Answer the questions in the spaces provided below them.

**Video**

## Introduction to Fables

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruX6oQeLC3M>

**Narrative 1**

The Lion and the Mouse

A Lion lay asleep in the forest, his great head resting on his paws. A scared little Mouse came upon him unexpectedly, and in her fright and rush to get away, ran across the Lion's nose. Awakened from his nap, the Lion angrily laid his huge paw on the tiny creature.

"Do not hurt me!" begged the poor Mouse. "Please let me go and someday I will surely repay you."

The Lion was much amused to think that a Mouse could ever help him. But he was generous and finally let the Mouse go. Some days later, while hunting for prey in

the forest, the Lion was caught in a hunter's net. Unable to free himself, he filled the forest with his angry roaring. The Mouse knew the voice and quickly found the Lion struggling in the net.

Running to one of the great ropes that bound him, she chewed it until it broke, and soon the Lion was free. "You laughed when I said I would repay you," said the Mouse. "Now you see that even a Mouse can help a Lion."

## **Narrative 2**

### The Dog and His Reflection

The butcher saw a Dog walking by his shop and threw a bone to him. The Dog hurried home with his bone as fast as he could go. As he crossed a narrow bridge, he happened to look down and saw himself reflected in the quiet water as if in a mirror. But the greedy Dog thought he saw a real Dog carrying a bone much bigger than his own.

If he had stopped to think, he would have known better. But instead of thinking, he dropped his bone in the water and jumped toward the Dog in the river, only to find himself swimming for dear life to reach the shore. At last he managed to find his way out, and as he stood sadly thinking about the good bone he had lost, he realized what a silly Dog he had been.

## **Narrative 3**

### The Shepherd's Boy and the Wolf

A Shepherd's Boy was tending his flock near a village, and thought it would be great fun to trick the villagers by pretending that a Wolf was attacking the sheep: so he shouted out, "Wolf! Wolf!" and when the people came running up he laughed at them because they believed him. He did this more than once, and every time the villagers found they had been tricked, for there was no Wolf at all.

At last a Wolf really did come, and the Boy cried, "Wolf! Wolf!" as loud as he could: but the people were so used to hearing him call that they took no notice of his cries for help. And so no one came to help the boy, and the Wolf attacked the sheep.

## Questions

1. Analyze how the three fables are alike. Use details from the fables to support your answer.

2. Based on the information in the article and the three fables you read, what traits should you include if you wanted to write your own fable? Support your answer with details from the article and the fables.

3. Explain why all of these sources are helpful for someone who wants to learn how to write fables. Support your answer with details from the article and the fables.

4. Which of the following additional sources would be **most** helpful to someone who wanted to learn more about common themes found in fables?

A. a biography of the Greek fable writer Aesop

B. a list of famous fables with a summary of each one

C. examples of two fables from different cultures

D. an article about why people enjoy telling fables

## Part 2

You will now have review your notes and sources, and plan, draft, and revise your fable. While you may use your notes and refer to the sources, you must work on your own. You may also refer to the answers you wrote to earlier questions, but you cannot change those answers. Now read your assignment and the information about how your fable will be scored, and then begin your work.

## Your Assignment

The three stories you read are examples of typical fables. Write your own fable that includes the traits of fables discussed in the article and shown in the stories you read. Remember to include narrative strategies such as dialogues, descriptions, characters, plot, setting, and closure.