

Fun With Fables Literacy Center



ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

Thank you for purchasing this teaching unit. We hope you love it!
Tammy and Shannon



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(Except for your own classroom)



DO NOT POST ONLINE.

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ELA Core Plans

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Literacy Center Fables

Set up the station

- Print the fables on card stock. You can place the pages in page protectors, or cut each fable out.
- Place them in a folder, three ring binder, or basket. We recommend a three-ring binder.
- Copy several of the blank comic strip pages to place in the center. There are three of these. Copy some of each so that students can choose the one that they want to use.
- You will also need a dictionary, colored pencils/crayons, and index cards or notebook paper at this center.
- Copy the directions and frequently asked questions about directions and place in page protectors inside of three-ring binder. If you are using folders, you can tape these directions on the outside of the folder.
- If available, you may want to consider allowing students to use the Internet at this center to look up words and for drawing tutorials for their comic strips.
- You may wish to display students' completed comic strips on a board or wall in your room.

Directions

1. Choose one fable, and read it.
2. There are directions at the bottom of each fable that tell you to define any underlined words and to explain or make up the moral of the fable.
3. On a notecard or sheet of paper, write the title of the fable. Then, define any underlined words from the story, and explain or write the moral – these directions are at the bottom of each fable. Try to use context clues to define the words. If needed, however, you may use a dictionary.
4. Next, complete a comic strip of the fable. If you cannot draw, just do your best and draw “stick people” and “stick animals”. Make sure you depict all main parts of the story. Use speech bubbles or thought bubbles for dialogue or thoughts of the characters. Choose one of the blank comic strips provided or draw your own.
5. Each person using this center should choose a different fable. You may help one another in the group if needed, but each person should complete all work for a different fable. If you have time, color your comic strip.

Frequently Asked Questions About Directions

Q. If I am working with a partner, can we use the same fable?

A. No, in this center, you need to choose your own fable. However, you may ask each other questions if you need help or advice.

Q. What do I do on the index card or paper?

A. You define any words that are underlined in the fable. First, try to use context clues. If you cannot figure out the meaning of the word in this way, use a dictionary to help you. You also must either explain the moral, or write a moral, depending on the question that is written at the bottom of the fable that you choose.

Q. How do I make a comic strip if there is no dialogue in the fable?

A. You can have the characters think things to themselves in order to explain what is happening. Or, simply draw a picture and write a story line above it.

Q. What if I can't draw?

A. Do your best. Stick people, animals, and places are ok. If available, use a computer to google pictures or tutorials on drawing things.

Q. What must be in my comic strip?

A. Your comic strip must tell the story of the fable. The teacher should be able to look at your comic strip and know exactly what happened in the story.

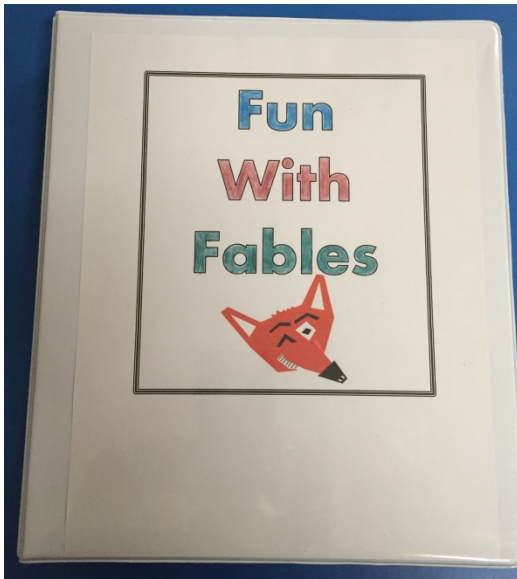
Q. Do I have to color it?

A. Yes. If you have time, you should add color to your comic strip.

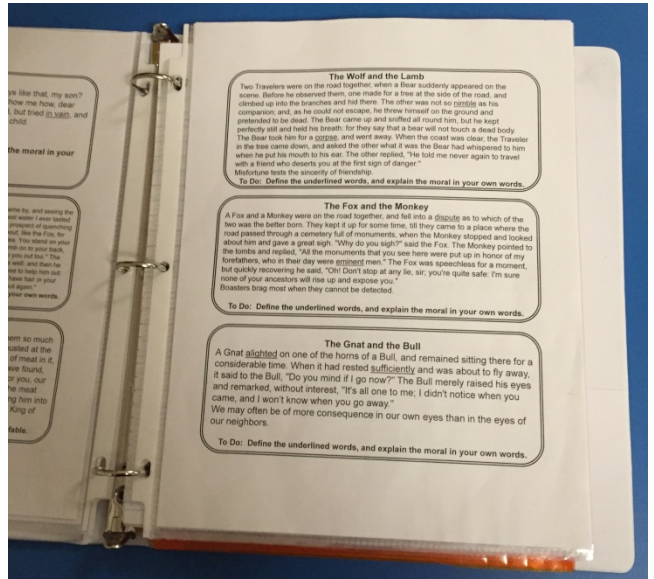
Q. What do I do if I finish early?

A. First, read over your work. Make sure you defined all of the words in the fable and answered the question about the moral. Then, look over your comic strip. Make sure it makes sense, shows what happens in the fable, and is neat and colorful. If you complete all of this, work on the early finish work that your teacher provides.

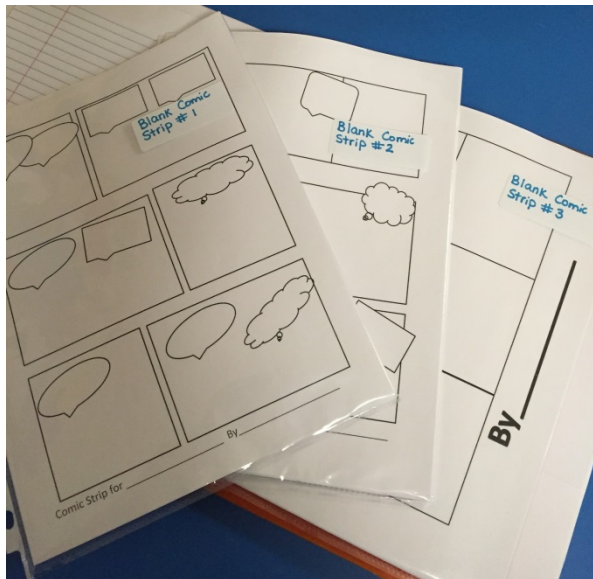
The Center in a Three-Ring Binder



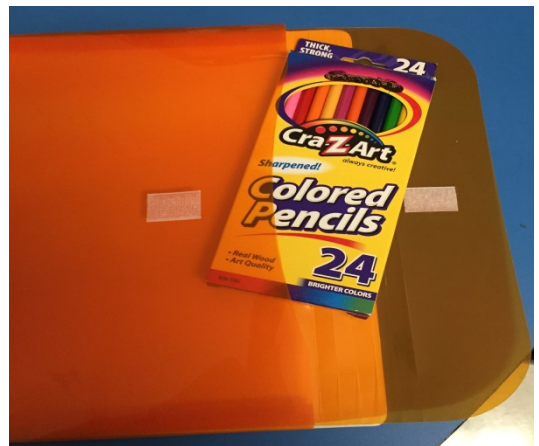
Everything fits nicely
in a binder!



If you don't want to cut out
the fables, put the pages in
page protectors inside
binder.



Copies of the different
comic strip templates can
also be placed in page
protectors.



These three-holed folders fit
nicely in binders and can
easily hold art supplies and
index cards needed for this
center.

Fun With Fables

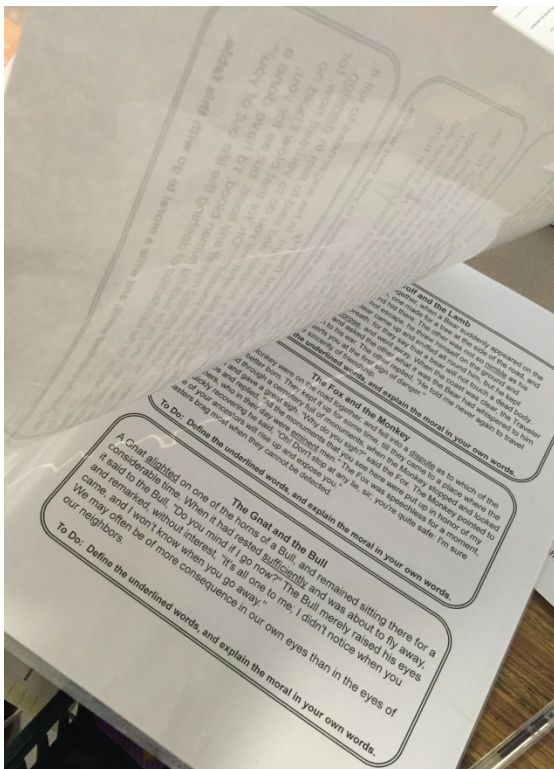
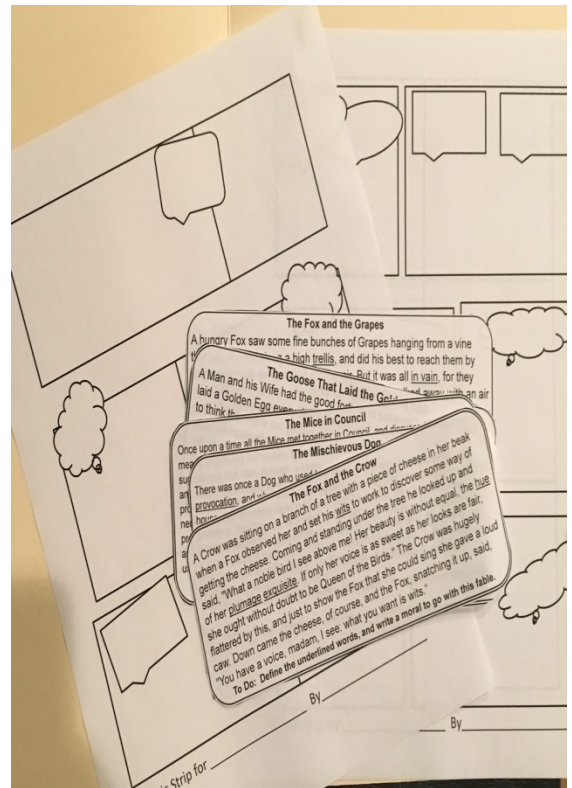


Directions

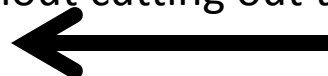
1. Choose one fable, and read it.
2. Follow the directions on the card at the bottom of the fable.
3. On a notecard or sheet of paper, write the title of the fable. Then, define any underlined words from the story, and explain or write the moral.
4. Next, complete a comic strip of the fable. If you cannot draw, just do your best and draw "stick people" and "stick animals". Make sure you depict all main parts of the story. Use speech bubbles for dialogue. Choose one of the blank comic strips provided or draw your own.
5. If there are more than two people at this center, pair up with a partner to complete the work. Each set of partners should choose a different fable. After you're finished, take turns reading the fable to the others in the group and share your comic strip.

If using folders for your centers, place fable cards and blank comic strip cards inside. The fables can be printed on cardstock for durability.

*We do recommend a binder.

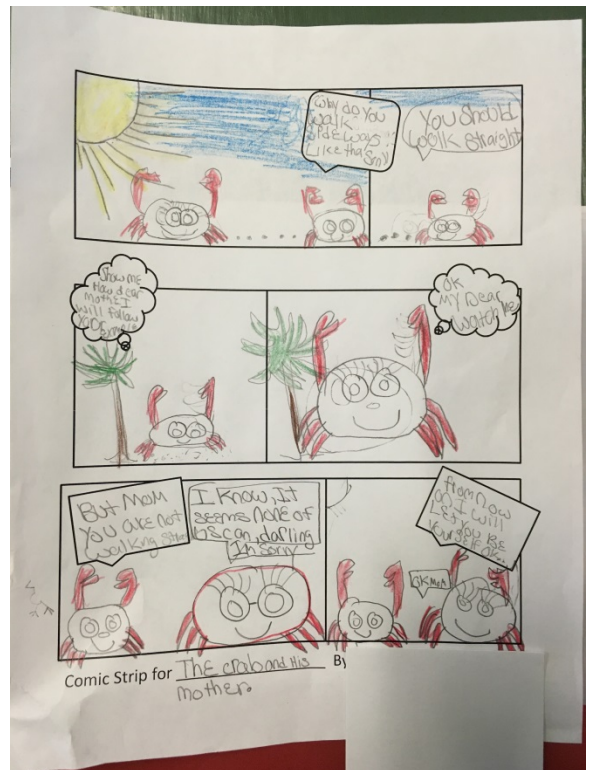
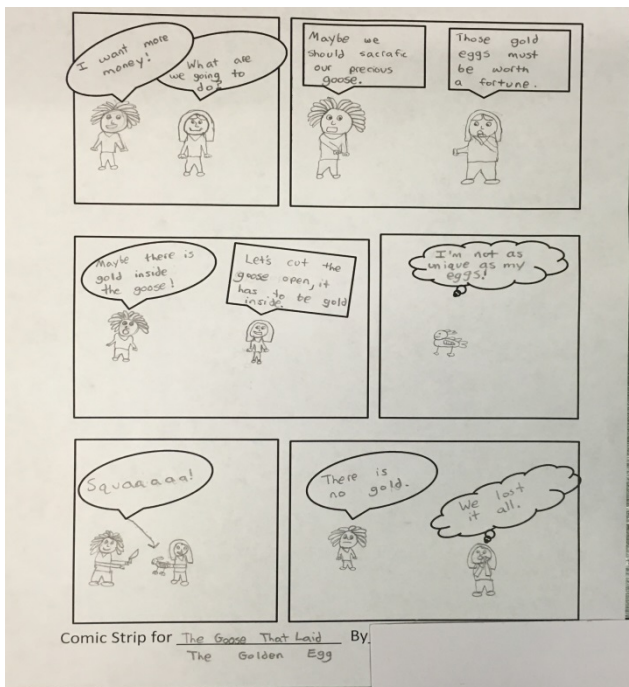
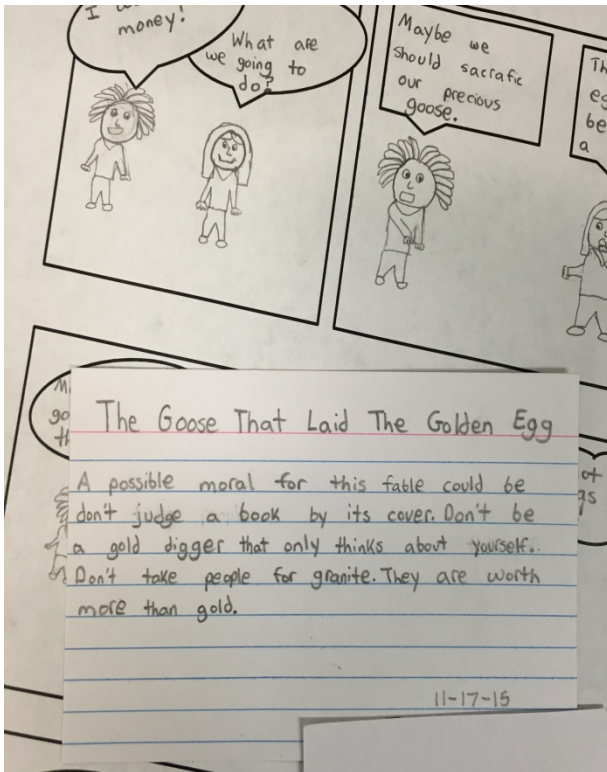


If you are using sheet protectors, you could place in folders without cutting out the fables.



Student Work Samples

Student's index card
with the moral
defined.



Fun With Fables



The Fox and the Grapes

A hungry Fox saw some fine bunches of Grapes hanging from a vine that was trained along a high trellis, and did his best to reach them by jumping as high as he could into the air. But it was all in vain, for they were just out of reach: so he gave up trying, and walked away with an air of dignity and unconcern, remarking, "I thought those Grapes were ripe, but I see now they are quite sour."

To Do: Define the underlined words, and write a moral to go with this fable.

The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg

A Man and his Wife had the good fortune to possess a Goose which laid a Golden Egg every day. Lucky though they were, they soon began to think they were not getting rich fast enough, and, imagining the bird must be made of gold inside, they decided to kill it in order to secure the whole store of precious metal at once. But when they cut it open they found it was just like any other goose. Thus, they neither got rich all at once, as they had hoped, nor enjoyed any longer the daily addition to their wealth.

To Do: Write a moral to go with this fable.

The Cat and the Mice

There was once a house that was overrun with Mice. A Cat heard of this, and said to herself, "That's the place for me," and off she went and took up her quarters in the house, and caught the Mice one by one and ate them. At last the Mice could stand it no longer, and they determined to take to their holes and stay there. "That's awkward," said the Cat to herself: "the only thing to do is to coax them out by a trick." So she considered a while, and then climbed up the wall and let herself hang down by her hind legs from a peg, and pretended to be dead. By and by a Mouse peeped out and saw the Cat hanging there. "Aha!" it cried, "You're very clever, madam, no doubt: but you may turn yourself into a bag of meal hanging there, if you like, yet you won't catch us coming anywhere near you." If you are wise you won't be deceived by the innocent appearances of those whom you have once found to be dangerous.

To Do: Define the underlined words, and explain the moral in your own words

The Mischievous Dog

There was once a Dog who used to snap at people and bite them without any provocation, and who was a great nuisance to every one who came to his master's house. So his master fastened a bell round his neck to warn people of his presence. The Dog was very proud of the bell, and strutted about tinkling it with immense satisfaction. But an old dog came up to him and said, "The fewer airs you give yourself the better, my friend. You don't think, do you, that your bell was given you as a reward of merit? On the contrary, it is a badge of disgrace." Notoriety is often mistaken for fame.

To Do: Define the underlined words, and explain the moral in your own words.

The Mice in Council

Once upon a time all the Mice met together in Council, and discussed the best means of securing themselves against the attacks of the cat. After several suggestions had been debated, a Mouse of some standing and experience got up and said, "I think I have hit upon a plan which will ensure our safety in the future, provided you approve and carry it out. It is that we should fasten a bell round the neck of our enemy the cat, which will by its tinkling warn us of her approach." This proposal was warmly applauded, and it had been already decided to adopt it, when an old Mouse got upon his feet and said, "I agree with you all that the plan before us is an admirable one: but may I ask who is going to bell the cat?"

To Do: Define the underlined word, and write a moral to go with this fable.

The Fox and the Crow

A Crow was sitting on a branch of a tree with a piece of cheese in her beak when a Fox observed her and set his wits to work to discover some way of getting the cheese. Coming and standing under the tree he looked up and said, "What a noble bird I see above me! Her beauty is without equal, the hue of her plumage exquisite. If only her voice is as sweet as her looks are fair, she ought without doubt to be Queen of the Birds." The Crow was hugely flattered by this, and just to show the Fox that she could sing she gave a loud caw. Down came the cheese, of course, and the Fox, snatching it up, said, "You have a voice, madam, I see: what you want is wits."

To Do: Define the underlined words, and write a moral to go with this fable.

The Wolf and the Lamb

A Wolf came upon a Lamb straying from the flock, and felt some compunction about taking the life of so helpless a creature without some plausible excuse; so he cast about for a grievance and said at last, "Last year, sirrah, you completely insulted me." "That is impossible, sir," bleated the Lamb, "for I wasn't born then." "Well," retorted the Wolf, "you feed in my pastures." "That cannot be," replied the Lamb, "for I have never yet tasted grass." "You drink from my spring, then," continued the Wolf. "Indeed, sir," said the poor Lamb, "I have never yet drunk anything but my mother's milk." "Well, anyhow," said the Wolf, "I'm not going without my dinner": and he sprang upon the Lamb and devoured it without wasting anymore time.

To Do: Define the underlined word(s), and write a moral to go with this fable.

The Crow and the Pitcher

A thirsty Crow found a Pitcher with some water in it, but so little was there that, try as she might, she could not reach it with her beak, and it seemed as though she would die of thirst within sight of the remedy. At last she hit upon a clever plan. She began dropping pebbles into the Pitcher, and with each pebble the water rose a little higher until at last it reached the brim, and the knowing bird was enabled to quench her thirst.
Necessity is the mother of invention.

To Do: Define the underlined word, and explain the moral in your own words.

The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

A Wolf resolved to disguise himself in order that he might prey upon a flock of sheep without fear of detection. So he clothed himself in a sheepskin, and slipped among the sheep when they were out at pasture. He completely deceived the shepherd, and when the flock was penned for the night, he was shut in with the rest. But that very night as it happened, the shepherd, requiring a supply of mutton for the table, laid hands on the Wolf in mistake for a Sheep, and killed him with his knife on the spot.

To Do: Define the underlined words, and write a moral to go with this fable.

The Wolf and the Lamb

Two Travelers were on the road together, when a Bear suddenly appeared on the scene. Before he observed them, one made for a tree at the side of the road, and climbed up into the branches and hid there. The other was not so nimble as his companion; and, as he could not escape, he threw himself on the ground and pretended to be dead. The Bear came up and sniffed all round him, but he kept perfectly still and held his breath: for they say that a bear will not touch a dead body. The Bear took him for a corpse, and went away. When the coast was clear, the Traveler in the tree came down, and asked the other what it was the Bear had whispered to him when he put his mouth to his ear. The other replied, "He told me never again to travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of danger."
Misfortune tests the sincerity of friendship.

To Do: Define the underlined words, and explain the moral in your own words.

The Fox and the Monkey

A Fox and a Monkey were on the road together, and fell into a dispute as to which of the two was the better born. They kept it up for some time, till they came to a place where the road passed through a cemetery full of monuments, when the Monkey stopped and looked about him and gave a great sigh. "Why do you sigh?" said the Fox. The Monkey pointed to the tombs and replied, "All the monuments that you see here were put up in honor of my forefathers, who in their day were eminent men." The Fox was speechless for a moment, but quickly recovering he said, "Oh! Don't stop at any lie, sir; you're quite safe: I'm sure none of your ancestors will rise up and expose you."
Boasters brag most when they cannot be detected.

To Do: Define the underlined words, and explain the moral in your own words.

The Gnat and the Bull

A Gnat alighted on one of the horns of a Bull, and remained sitting there for a considerable time. When it had rested sufficiently and was about to fly away, it said to the Bull, "Do you mind if I go now?" The Bull merely raised his eyes and remarked, without interest, "It's all one to me; I didn't notice when you came, and I won't know when you go away."
We may often be of more consequence in our own eyes than in the eyes of our neighbors.

To Do: Define the underlined words, and explain the moral in your own words.

The Crab and His Mother

An Old Crab said to her son, "Why do you walk sideways like that, my son? You ought to walk straight." The Young Crab replied, "Show me how, dear mother, and I'll follow your example." The Old Crab tried, but tried in vain, and then saw how foolish she had been to find fault with her child.
Example is better than precept.

To Do: Define the underlined word(s), and explain the moral in your own words.

The Fox and the Goat

A Fox fell into a well and was unable to get out again. By and by a thirsty Goat came by, and seeing the Fox in the well asked him if the water was good. "Good?" said the Fox, "It's the best water I ever tasted in all my life. Come down and try it yourself." The Goat thought of nothing but the prospect of quenching his thirst, and jumped in at once. When he had had enough to drink, he looked about, like the Fox, for some way of getting out, but could find none. Presently the Fox said, "I have an idea. You stand on your hind legs, and plant your forelegs firmly against the side of the well, and then I'll climb on to your back, and, from there, by stepping on your horns, I can get out. And when I'm out, I'll help you out too." The Goat did as he was requested, and the Fox climbed on to his back and so out of the well; and then he coolly walked away. The Goat called loudly after him and reminded him of his promise to help him out: but the Fox merely turned and said, "If you had as much sense in your head as you have hair in your beard you wouldn't have got into the well without making certain that you could get out again."

Look before your leap.

To Do: Explain the moral in your own words.

The Monkey as King

At a gathering of all the animals, the Monkey danced and delighted them so much that they made him their King. The Fox, however, was very much disgusted at the promotion of the Monkey: so having one day found a trap with a piece of meat in it, he took the Monkey there and said to him, "Here is a dainty morsel I have found, sire; I did not take it myself, because I thought it ought to be reserved for you, our King. Will you be pleased to accept it?" The Monkey made at once for the meat and got caught in the trap. Then he bitterly reproached the Fox for leading him into danger, but the Fox only laughed and said, "O Monkey, you call yourself King of the Beasts and haven't more sense than to be taken in like that!"

To Do: Define the underlined words, and write a moral to go with this fable.

The Mouse, The Crow, and The Hawk

A Mouse and a Frog struck up a friendship; they were not well mated, for the Mouse lived entirely on land, while the Frog was equally at home on land or in the water. In order that they might never be separated, the Frog tied himself and the Mouse together by the leg with a piece of thread. As long as they kept on dry land all went fairly well; but, coming to the edge of a pool, the Frog jumped in, taking the Mouse with him, and began swimming about and croaking with pleasure. The unhappy Mouse, however, was soon drowned, and floated about on the surface in the wake of the Frog. There he was spied by a Hawk, who pounced down on him and seized him in his talons. The Frog was unable to loosen the knot which bound him to the Mouse, and thus was carried off along with him and eaten by the Hawk.

To Do: Define the underlined word, and write a moral to go with this fable.

The Tortoise and the Eagle

A Tortoise, discontented with his lowly life, and envious of the birds he saw showing off in the air, begged an Eagle to teach him to fly. The Eagle protested that it was futile for him to try, as nature had not provided him with wings; but the Tortoise pressed him with entreaties and promises of treasure, insisting that it could only be a question of learning the craft of the air. So at length the Eagle consented to do the best he could for him, and picked him up in his talons. Soaring with him to a great height in the sky he then let him go, and the wretched Tortoise fell headlong and was dashed to pieces on a rock.
Look before your leap.

To Do: Define the underlined words, and explain the moral in your own words.

The Fox Without a Tail

A fox once fell into a trap, and after a struggle, managed to get free, but with the loss of his tail. He was then so much ashamed of his appearance that he thought life was not worth living unless he could persuade the other Foxes to part with their tails also, and thus divert attention from his own loss. So he called a meeting of all the Foxes, and advised them to cut off their tails: "They're ugly things anyhow," he said, "and besides they're heavy, and it's tiresome to be always carrying them about with you." But one of the other Foxes said, "My friend, if you hadn't lost your own tail, you wouldn't be so keen on getting us to cut off ours."

To Do: Define the underlined words, and write a moral to go with this fable.

The Dog and The Shadow

A Dog was crossing a plank bridge over a stream with a piece of meat in his mouth, when he happened to see his own reflection in the water. He thought it was another dog with a piece of meat twice as big; so he let go his own, and flew at the other dog to get the larger piece. But, of course, all that happened was that he got neither; for one was only a shadow, and the other was carried away by the current.

To Do: Write a moral to go with this fable.

The Lion and The Three Bulls

Three Bulls were grazing in a meadow, and were watched by a Lion, who longed to capture and devour them, but who felt that he was no match for the three so long as they kept together. So he began by false whispers and malicious hints to foment jealousies and distrust among them. This strategy succeeded so well that before long the Bulls grew cold and unfriendly, and finally avoided each other and fed each one by himself apart. No sooner did the Lion see this than he fell upon them one by one and killed them in turn.
The quarrels of friends are the opportunities of foes.

To Do: Define the underlined words, and explain the moral in your own words.

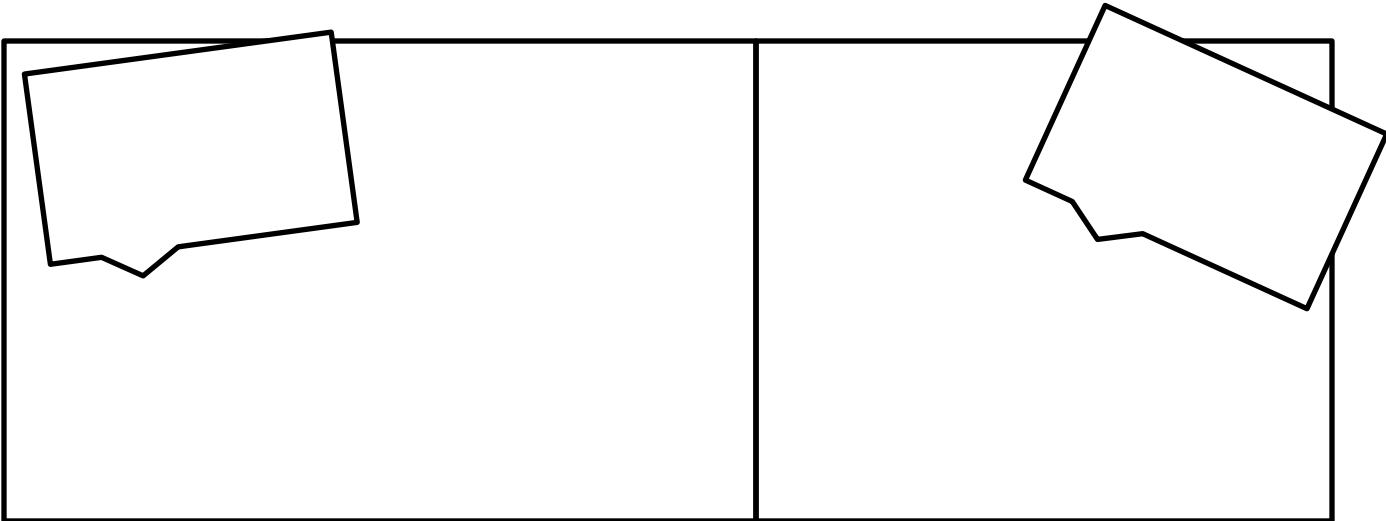
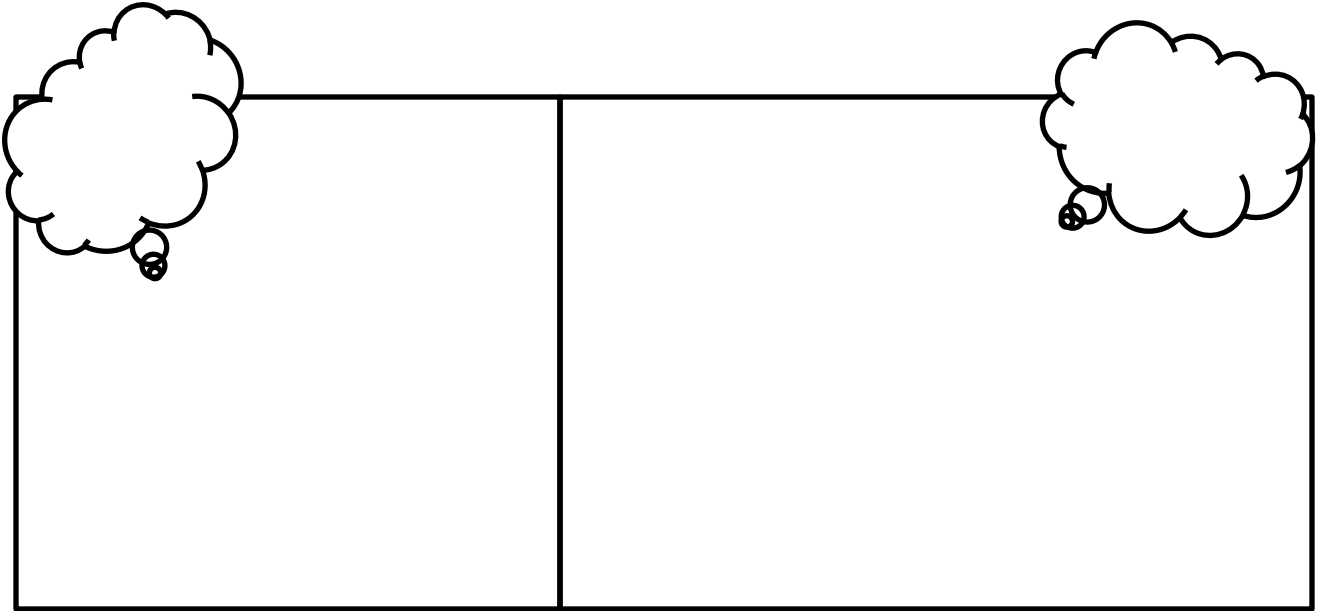
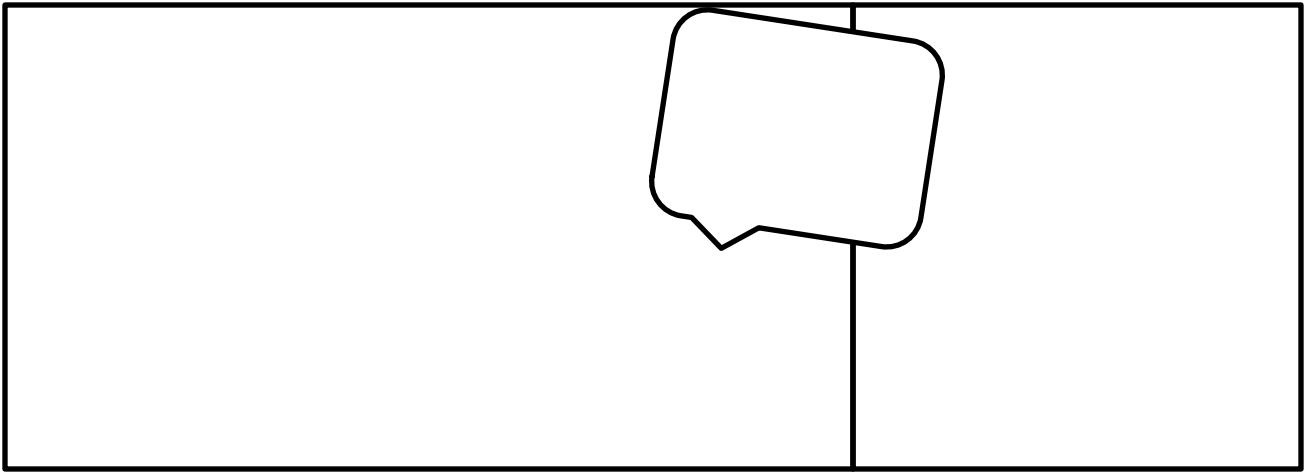
The Bald Man and The Fly

A Fly settled on the head of a Bald Man and bit him. In his eagerness to kill it, he hit himself a smart slap. But the Fly escaped, and said to him in derision, "You tried to kill me for just one little bite; what will you do to yourself now, for the heavy smack you have just given yourself?" "Oh, for that blow I hold no grudge," he replied, "for I never intended myself any harm; but as for you, you contemptible insect, who live by sucking human blood, I'd have done a good deal more than that for the satisfaction of dashing the life out of you!"

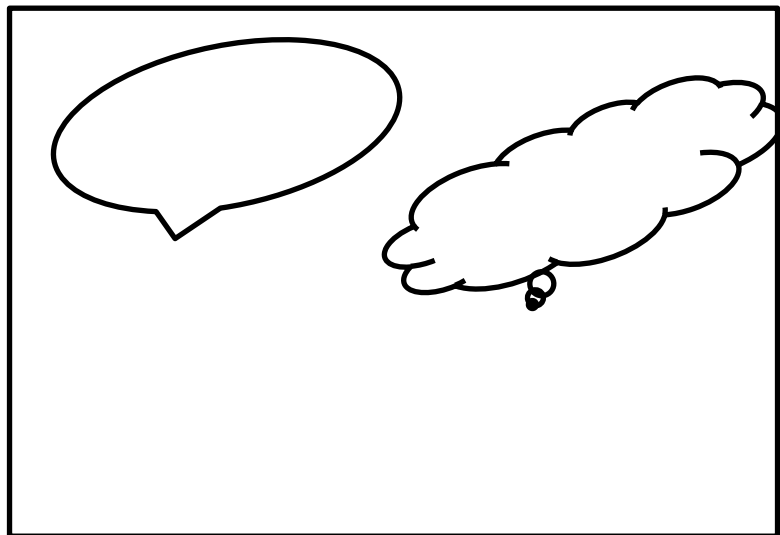
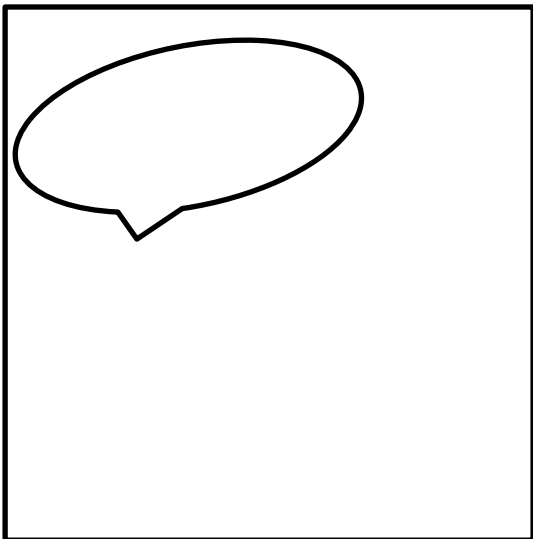
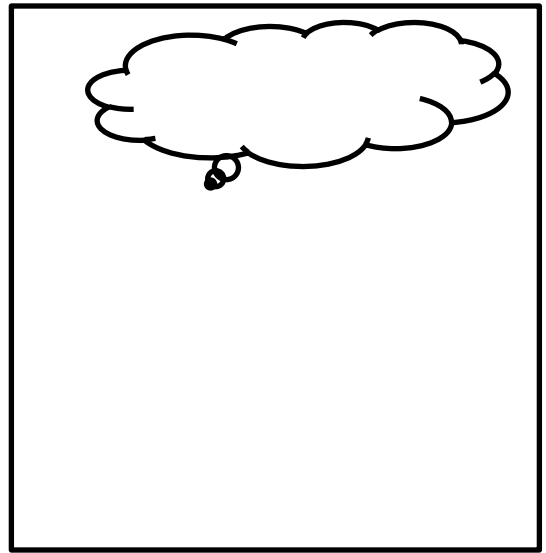
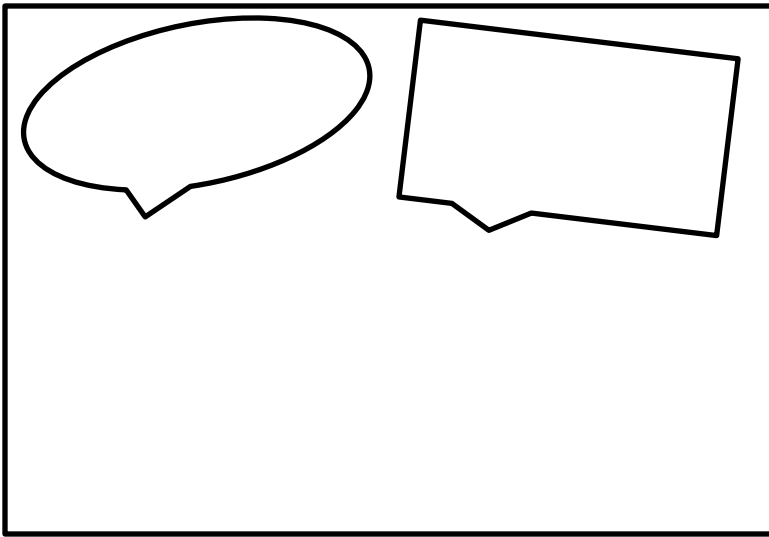
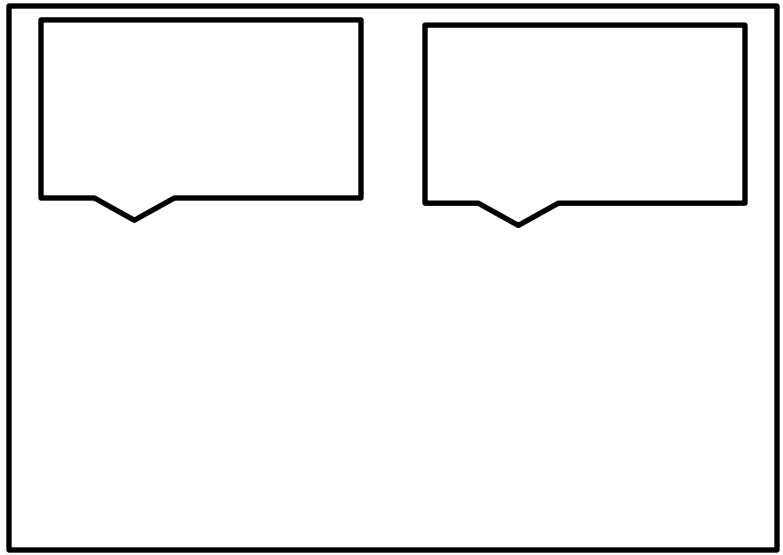
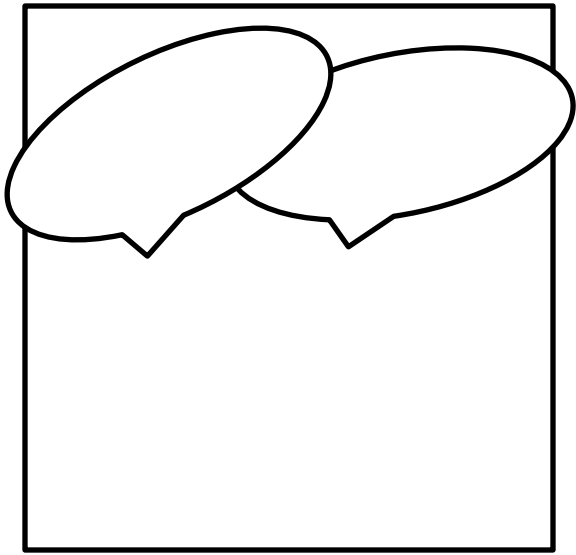
To Do: Define the underlined words, and write a moral to go with this fable.

Comic Strip for _____

By _____



Comic Strip for _____ By _____



Comic Strip for _____ By _____