

Fables

Learning objectives

- To tell a story using notes.
- To compare different types of narrative texts and identify how they are structured.
- To infer writers' perspectives from what is written and from what is implied.

Resources

- "Fables" Notebook file
- writing materials

Whiteboard tools

- Pen tray
- On-screen Keyboard
- Highlighter pen
- Select tool
- Page Sorter
- Fill Color tool

Getting Started

Open page 2 of the "Fables" Notebook file. Tell the fable "The Tortoise and the Hare." Use effective intonation, dramatic pauses, and voice changes to suit how or what is said. As you say the six cue words on the Notebook page, move them into the box. Point out how the cue words remind you of the key incidents. Ask: *How is listening to a story different from reading it?* (Intonation and pauses help you understand what is happening.)

Mini-Lesson

1. Read page 3 of the Notebook file and ask: *What does this story have in common with the Getting Started story?* (They are both fables.) Fables began as oral stories and many are attributed to Aesop, a Greek storyteller. Centuries later, these oral stories were put into writing.
2. Ask: *What helps you understand this written story?* (Written words and punctuation)
3. Highlight where punctuation guides the reader: for example, quotation marks and exclamation marks.
4. Ask: *What does this story teach us?* Press the button to reveal the moral.
5. Discuss the list of features of fables on page 4, identifying examples in the story on page 3.
6. Go to page 5. Discuss the moral of the story on page 3. Reveal one feature of a moral at a time (by using the Fill Color tool to fill each box with a light color) and discuss each feature in turn.
7. Return to page 2 and experiment with writing a moral for "The Tortoise and the Hare."
8. Go to page 6 and read the moral. Discuss ideas for an appropriate fable to go with it. Ask: *What animals would you use? What plot?* Add students' suggestions for animals and plots to the Notebook page.
9. Press the button to view some story suggestions. These can be selected and dragged to page 6 in the Page Sorter.

Independent Work

Have students create a pictorial storyboard of their fable, to act as a prompt for oral storytelling.

Allow less-confident learners to work in pairs. As an extra challenge, encourage more-confident learners to repeat the task with a new moral.

Wrap-Up

Add the scanned storyboards to page 7 of the Notebook file. (Upload scanned images by selecting Insert, then Picture File, and browsing to where you have saved the image.) Allow students to talk the class through their storyboards. Hold a storytelling session, with students using their storyboards for their cues.