

Alex's



THE BIG LITTLE STORYBOOK



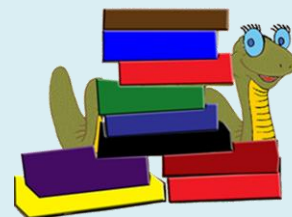


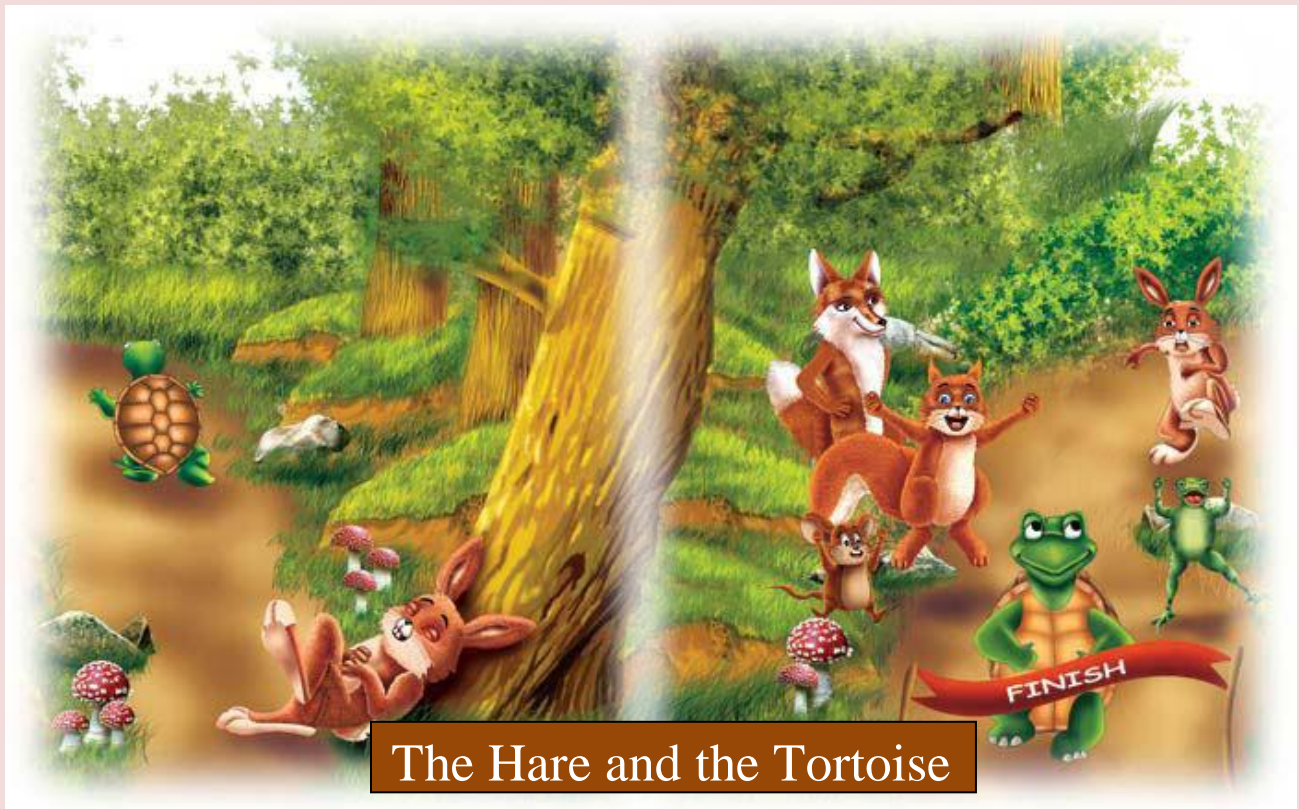
Reading is Fun



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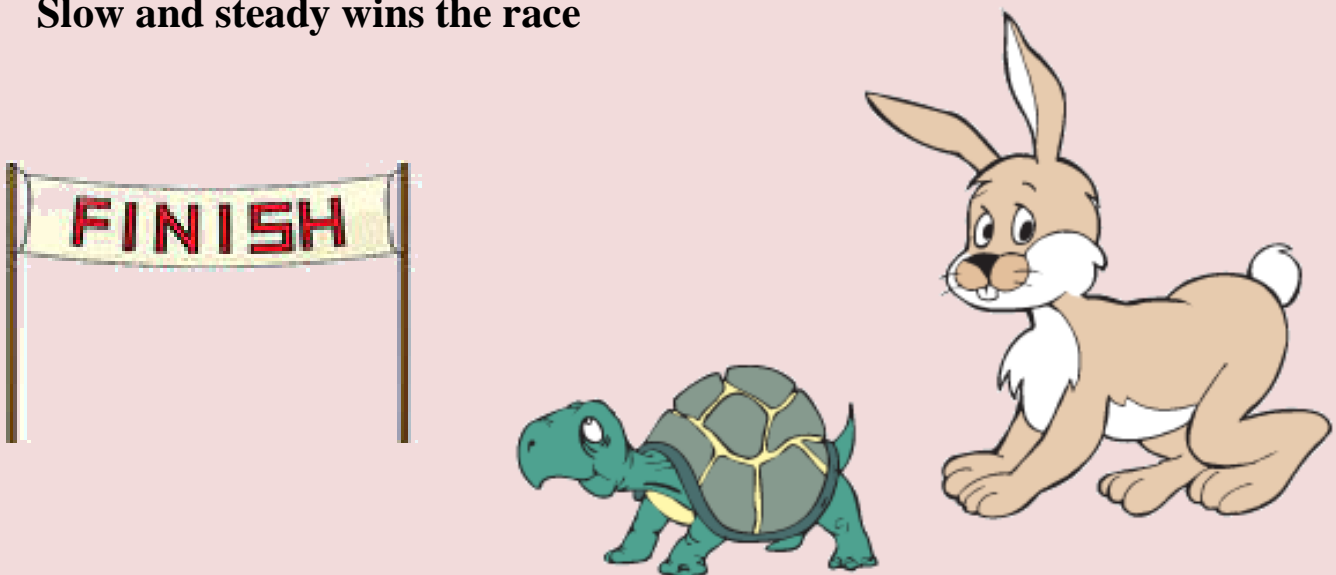
The Hare and the Tortoise

Once there lived in a forest a hare and a tortoise. The hare was very proud of his speed. He made fun of the tortoise for his slow speed. The tortoise challenged the hare to have a race with him. The hare accepted the challenge.

The race started. The crow was the referee. The hare ran very fast. The tortoise was left much behind. The hare stopped to take rest under a tree. He fell asleep.

The tortoise passed him and reached the winning post. The hare woke up and ran as fast as he could. He saw that the tortoise was already there at the winning post. He had won the race.

Slow and steady wins the race





The Ant and the Dove

One hot day, an ant was searching for some water. After walking around for some time, she came to a spring. To reach the spring, she had to climb up a blade of grass.

While making her way up, she slipped and fell into the water. She could have drowned if a dove up a nearby tree had not seen her. Seeing that the ant was in trouble, the dove quickly plucked off a leaf and dropped it into the water near the struggling ant.

The ant moved towards the leaf and climbed up there. Soon it carried her safely to dry ground. Just at that time, a hunter nearby was throwing out his net towards the dove, hoping to trap it.

Guessing what he was about to do, the ant quickly bit him on the heel. Feeling the pain, the hunter dropped his net. The dove was quick to fly away to safety.





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 without supper to bed,” and he closed the door.

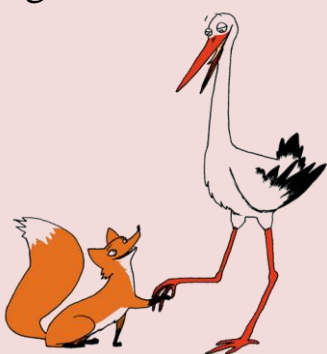
The Stork and the Fox



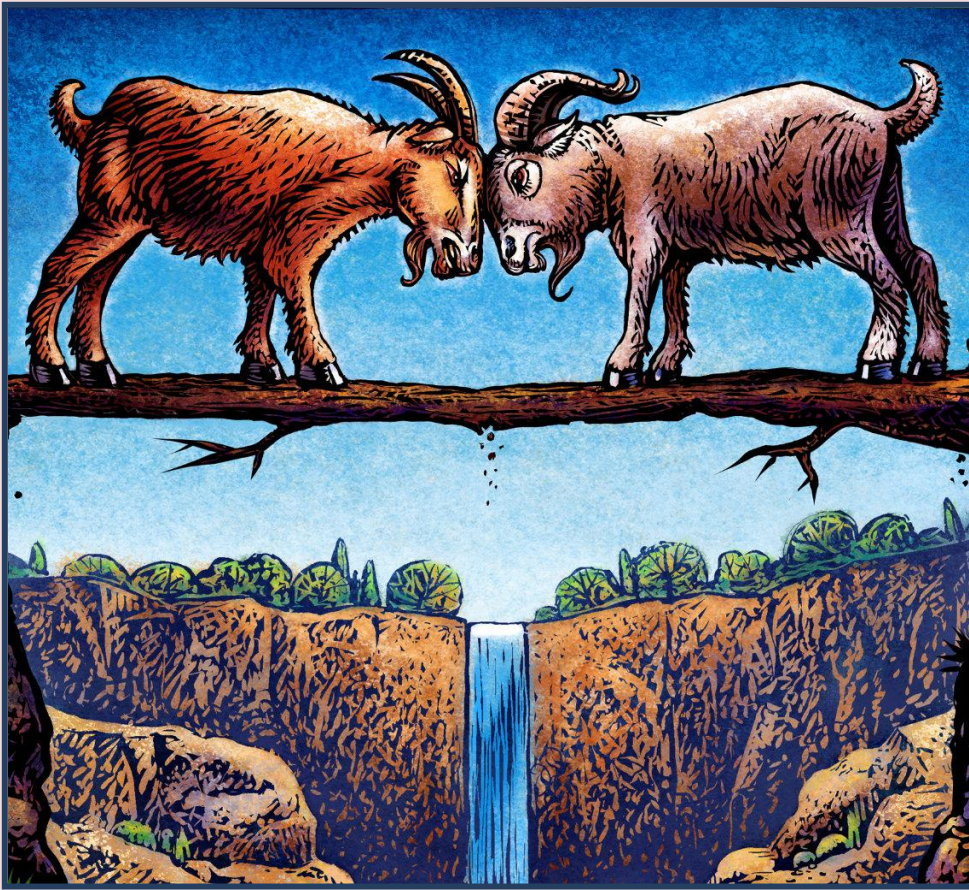
Once upon a time, a stork and a fox lived in the jungle. The fox was very cunning and he loved to play tricks on the stork. One day, the fox invited the stork for dinner. “Brother Stork, please come for some delicious home-cooked food, tonight,” the fox said.

In the evening, the stork went to visit the fox. The fox brought out a delicious-smelling soup on a flat plate – He placed the plate in front of the stork. While the stork had trouble sipping his soup, the fox lapped his share up and laughed at the stork. “You have been so gracious to me. I must return the favor,” said the stork. “You are invited to dinner at my house tomorrow.”

Then next day, when the fox came to visit the stork, she served him cooked fish in a pitcher. While the stork happily ate her fish with her long beak, the fox was left whining and hungry. The cunning fox had learnt his lesson and stopped playing tricks on the stork.



The Two Goats



Over a river there was a very narrow bridge. One day a goat was crossing this bridge. Just at the middle of the bridge he met another goat. There was no room for them to pass. "Go back," said one goat to the other, "there is no room for both of us".

"Why should I go back?", said the other goat. "Why should not you go back?"

" You must go back", said the first goat, "because I am stronger than you."

"You are not stronger than I", said the second goat.

"We will see about that", said the first goat, and he put down his horns to fight.

"Stop!", said the second goat. " If we fight, we shall both fall into the river and be drowned. Instead I have a plan- I shall lie down, and you may walk over me." Then the wise goat lay down on the bridge, and the other goat walked lightly over him. So they passed each other, and went on their ways.

The Wolf Plays the Flute for The Clever Lamb



A wolf carried off a lamb. The lamb said, "I know you are going to eat me, but before you eat me I would like to hear you play the flute. I have heard that you can play the flute better than anyone else, even the shepherd himself."

The wolf was so pleased at this that he took out his flute and began to play.

When he had done, the lamb insisted him to play once more and the wolf played again.

The shepherd and the dogs heard the sound, and they came running up and fell on the wolf and the lamb was able to get back to the flock.



The three little pigs, the Tomatoes and the Apples



In a valley lived three pigs and a wolf. The wolf was always scheming to eat the pigs. He tried to catch them many times but they always managed to escape.

One day, he knocked at the pigs' door, "Hello, friends! I have come to tell you about the delicious tomatoes in Jack's farm. Come out! I will take you there," he said.

The pigs replied, "Thank you, friend! Come back at five o'clock in the evening. We will go with you." As soon as the wolf left, the pigs went to the farm and brought a huge basket of ripe red tomatoes.

The wolf was annoyed. But he tried his luck again. "Come, let's go to the farm to pick apples!" the wolf invited the pigs. We will meet you at six o'clock," said the pigs. This time, the wolf arrived at the farm at five o'clock. But the pigs were already up in the tree. When they saw the wolf, they threw the apples at him and the wolf had to run away.

The Four Friends

There were four friends a deer, a crow, a tortoise and a rat living in a jungle. One day a hunter laid a trap to catch the deer. The deer was caught in the trap.

When his friends saw him trapped they made a plan to rescue the deer. The deer lay down as if it was dead. The crow started poking into its eyes the way they do to dead animal.

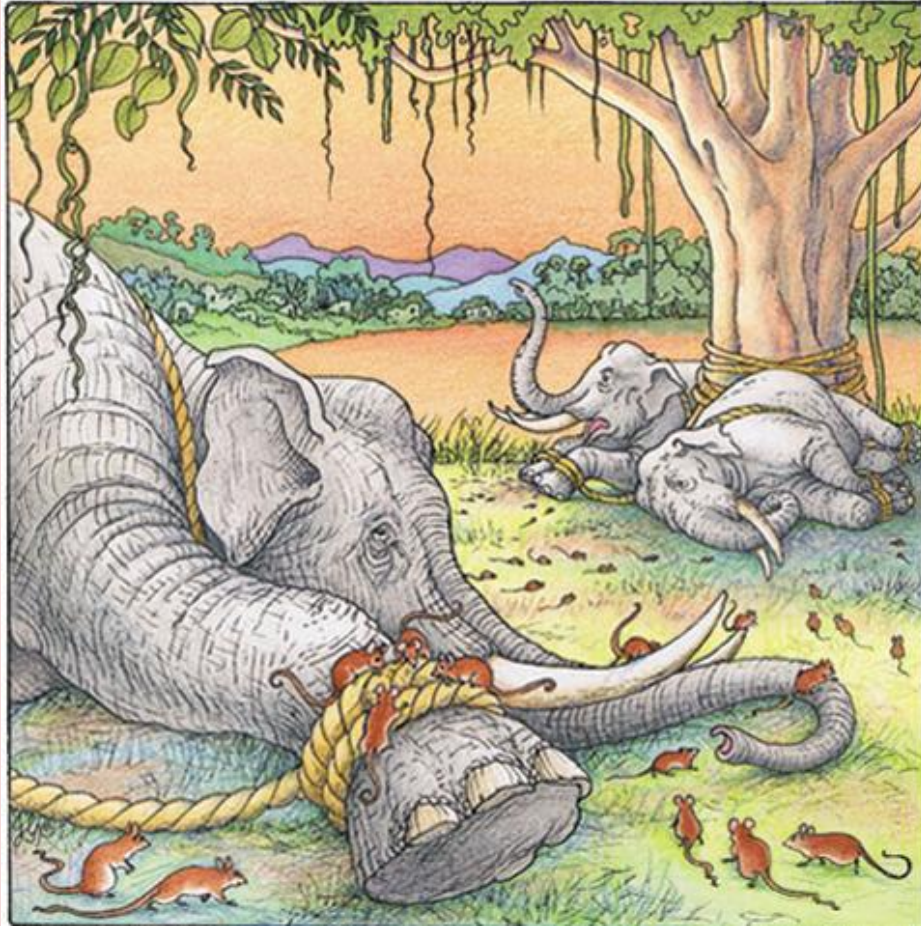
Then the turtle started moving in front of the hunter. The hunter thought the deer to be dead so could not escape. So he thought of catching another prey the turtle.

Meanwhile the rat cut the trap of deer to set him free. While the deer ran away the crow picked up the turtle and flew away.

Thus all friends saved the deer.



The mice and the elephants



Once upon a time there lived a group of mice under a tree peacefully. But once a group of elephants came that way and destroyed the homes of all the mice as a result of which many of them were crushed to death. Then the king of mice decided to approach the elephant chief and request him to guide his herd through another route.

The elephant king agreed to this and took another route to the water. And so the lives of the mice were saved.

One day a group of elephant-hunters came and trapped the group of elephants in huge nets. Then the elephant king suddenly remembered the king of the mice. He summoned one of the elephants of his herd which had not been trapped, to go and contact the king of mice.

On listening to the elephant, the mice king took his entire group of mice and they cut open the nets which trapped the elephant herd. So the elephant herd was totally set free.

The Peacock and the Crane



There was once a very conceited Peacock who had a gorgeous tail like no other bird. So, when he met a Crane one day, the Peacock scoffed at the Crane's colorless and dull feathers, and immediately spread his own colorful tail for the Crane to see and admire.

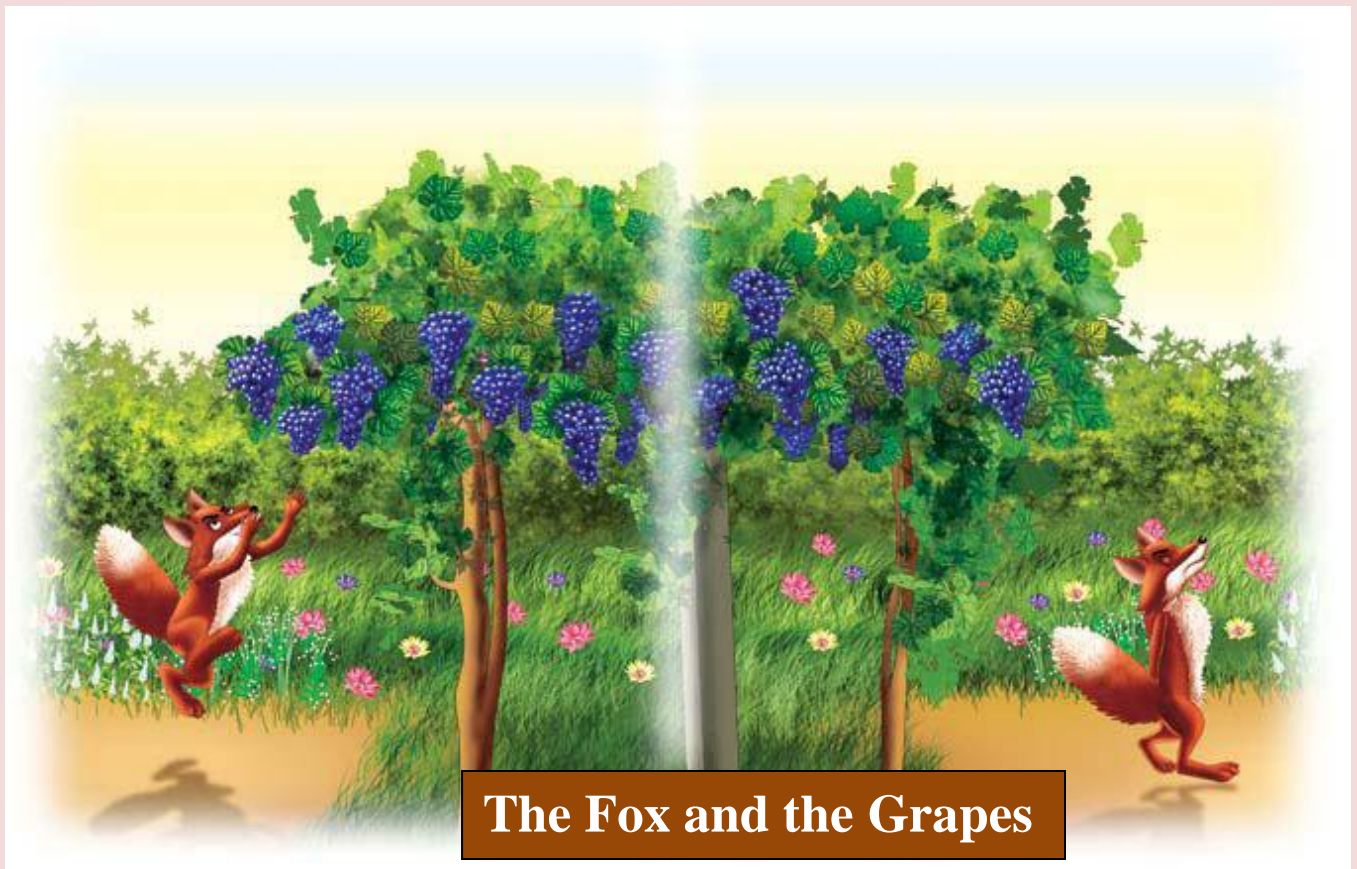


"Look at my feathers," he boasted, how they shine in all the colors of the rainbow, while yours are so pale! I am dressed like a king!"



"That's true," the Crane answered, "but I can fly high above, among the clouds and the stars and I can see all the beauty of the earth in all its glory, while you live down here just like any other cock."

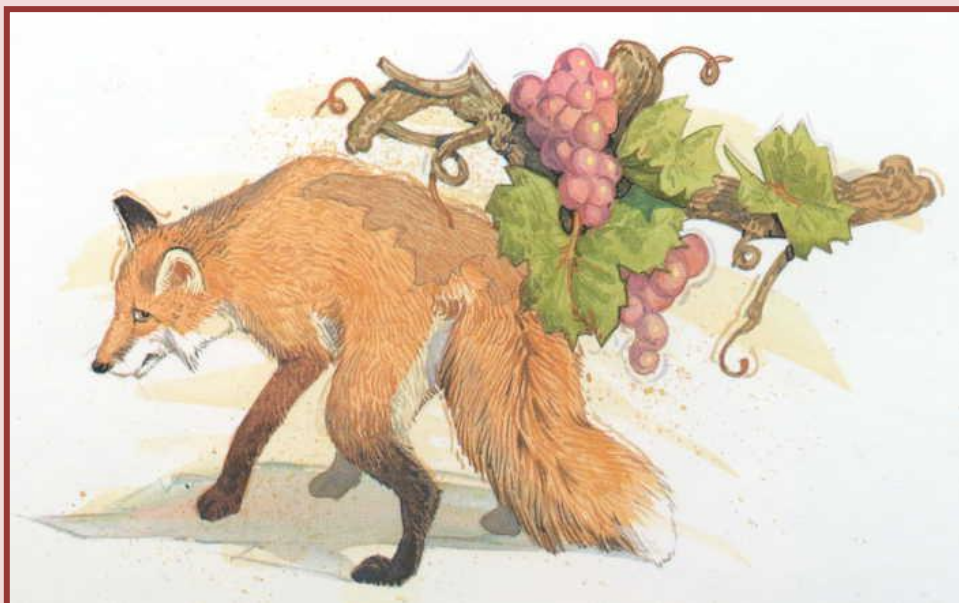




One hot summer's day a hungry Fox saw some clusters of ripe grapes hanging from a vine. But the vine on which the grapes hung was too high for him to reach.

Drawing back a few steps, he took a running leap at it, but he missed the bunch. Again and again he tried, but in vain.

At last, he had to give it up, and walked away with his nose in the air, saying, "They must be sour."



The Fox and the Goat

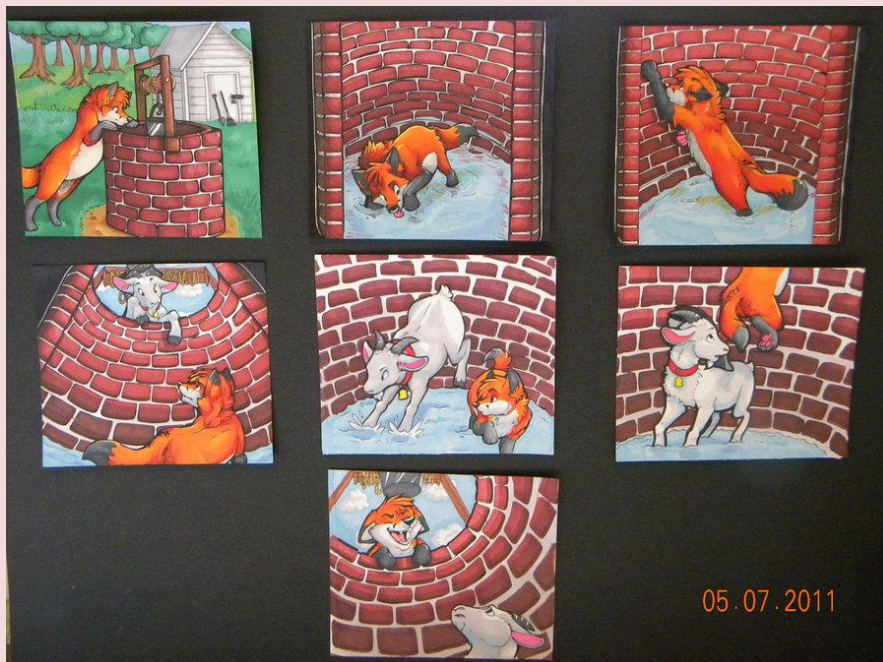


A wily fox was once wandering in the forest. He peeked inside a well and fell into it. “Oh gracious me!” he thought. “I have to get out of the well before I die of cold.”

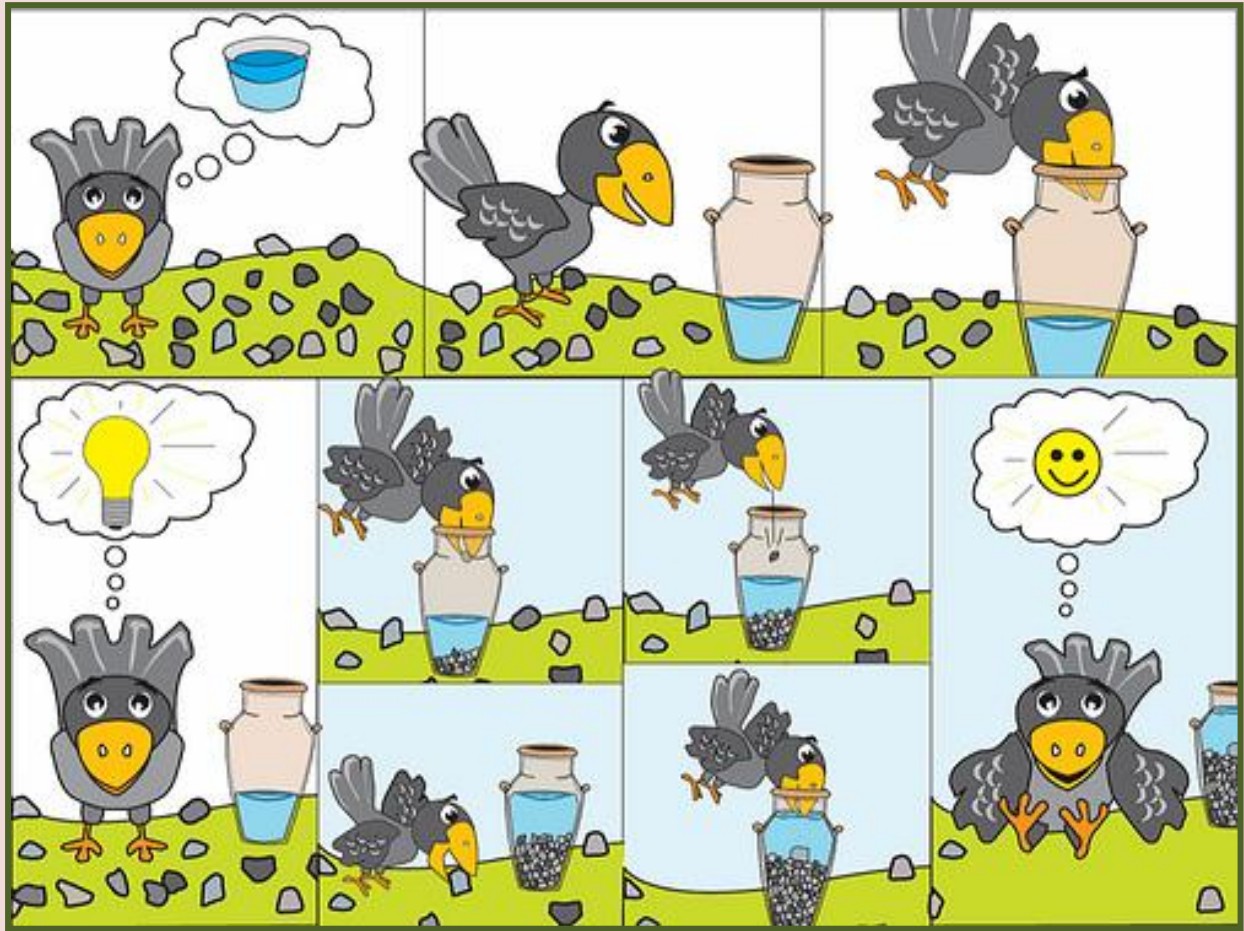
While he was thinking, a goat happened to pass by. “Mmm... the water in this well tastes so good!” said the fox loudly.

The goat peered into the well and asked, “Is it really sweet?” asked the goat. “Jump in! I will help you come out of it later!” offered the fox.

As soon as the goat jumped into the well, the fox climbed on him and got out of the well and ran away. The foolish goat lay there shivering!



The Crow and the Pitcher



A crow was very thirsty and he found a pitcher which was half filled with water. But when he tried to drink the water, he could not. The pitcher was tall and his beak didn't reach the water. He tried, and he tried, but could not reach the water with his beak.

Then a thought came to him, and he took a pebble and dropped it into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped it into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher.

At last, at last, he saw the water mount up near him, and after casting in a few more pebbles he was able to quench his thirst.



The Greedy Dog



Once upon a time, there lived a dog. One day, he was very hungry and went in search of food. The dog found a juicy bone and was very happy. The dog happily carried the bone back home. He held the bone tightly in his mouth and scowled at anyone who tried to take it away.

On his way home, he had to cross a bridge. While crossing the bridge, the dog saw his reflection in the water below. The foolish dog thought there was another dog in the water, holding another juicy bone.

The greedy dog wanted to have that bone too. He growled and barked at his own reflection in the water. "I'll get that bone too," thought the greedy dog, and he snapped his sharp teeth and barked at his reflection in the water.

But alas! The moment the foolish dog opened his mouth to snap his teeth, the piece of bone fell into the stream. The dog lost his bone and had to go home, hungry.



The Cat and the Fox



Fox -- Good morning, friend, how are you to-day?

Cat -- I am well, thank you, Mr. Fox.

Fox -- Will you take a walk with me to-day?

Cat -- I am afraid of the dogs, Mr. Fox.

Fox -- I am not afraid. I know a hundred tricks. Dogs cannot catch me.

Cat -- I know only one trick.

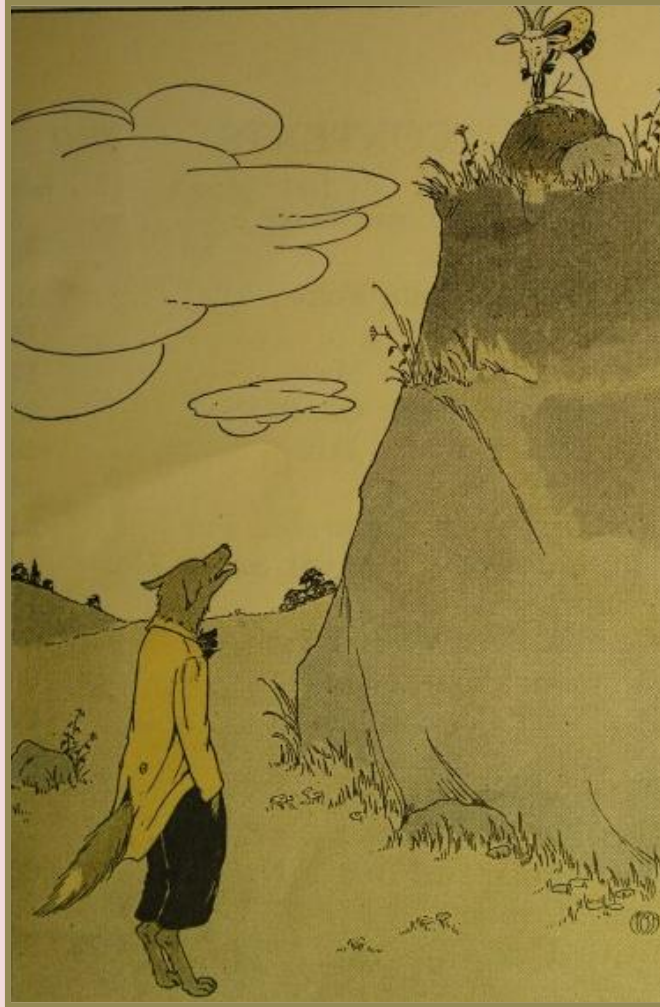
Fox -- Only one? Then I must teach you some. Oh, there are the dogs! What shall we do?

Cat -- I shall climb this tree. Then the dogs cannot get me.

Fox -- What shall I do? I cannot climb. I do not know that trick.

Cat -- You see my one tricks is better than your hundred.

The Wolf and the Goat



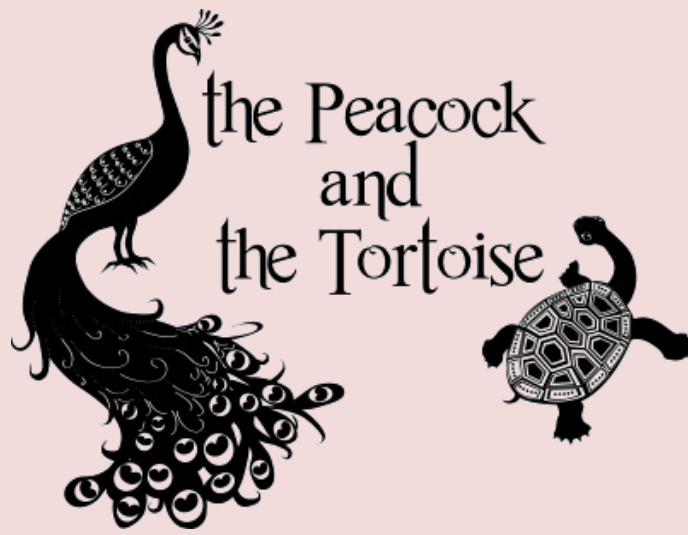
Wolf - I am very hungry. I would like a fat goat to eat. There is one on that high rock. How can I get her? I will go and talk to her.
Good morning, Mrs. Goat.

Goat - Good morning, Mr. Wolf.

Wolf - See the fine grass down here. Come and eat with me, Mrs. Goat.

Goat - Thank you, Mr. Wolf. You like to eat goats as well as grass. I will stay up here. Run along, Mr. Wolf.

Wolf - Look out, Mrs. Goat! Some day I will get you.



A peacock and a tortoise lived on the banks of a river and became good friends.

One day a hunter came along and caught the peacock. The peacock pleaded with the hunter. 'Please, let me say goodbye to my friend the tortoise. I cannot leave without saying goodbye.'

The hunter granted the peacock's request. The tortoise did not want to lose his friend and offered the hunter an expensive pearl in return for the freedom of the peacock.

The hunter accepted the pearl and the peacock was free to go. He went to live out on an island so he could not be caught again.

A few days later the hunter came back and said: 'I am going to catch that peacock again, unless you bring me another one of those pearls, exactly the same.'

The tortoise said: 'Ok, I will do that, because I love my friend. Give me the first pearl and I will dive and find you one exactly the same'.

The hunter gave the pearl to the tortoise, who swam away to the island where the peacock lived. He never returned and the hunter was left with nothing.

The Cock & the Fox



One bright evening wise old Cock flew into a tree to roost. But just as he was about to put his head under his wing, he saw Master

Fox standing just below him.

“Have you heard the wonderful news?” cried the Fox in a very joyful and excited manner.

“What news?” asked the Cock very calmly.

“Your family and mine and all other animals have agreed to be friend and live happily to-gether. Do come down, dear friend, and let us celebrate the joyful event.”

“How grand!” said the Cock. “I certainly am delighted at the news.” The cock was looking at

something far off.

“What is it you see?” asked the Fox a little anxiously.

“Why, it looks to me like a couple of dogs coming this way. They must have also heard the good news.”

But the Fox did not wait to hear more. Off he started on a run.

“Wait,” cried the Cock. “Why do you run? The Dogs are friends of yours now!”

“Yes,” answered the Fox. “But they might not have heard the news. Besides, I have a very important errand that I had almost forgotten about.”

The Cock smiled as he buried his head in his feathers and went to sleep, for he had succeeded in outwitting a very cunning enemy.

The Monkey and the two cats



Once upon a time two cats were walking together in a small village. One of the cats saw a big piece of bread and shouted. The other cat jumped upon and picked the bread.

The first cat said, "I am the one who saw the bread, so I should have it."

The other cat replied, "So what? I picked it. The bread is mine."

The argument continued for a long time without any solution. Finally, they both decided to go to some third person to give a good judgement about this problem. They went to the monkey who lived near to their homes and told him the bread and their fight.

The monkey said, "Don't fight. I will share the bread equally among you both". Saying this, the monkey split the bread into two parts. One of that had more bread than the other.

The monkey shook his head and said, "Ah.. ah..!! one is bigger than the other". He took some bread from the bigger one and ate the bread. Now the other part looked bigger. So this time he ate some bread from the bigger part. Now the other one appeared bigger and the monkey ate some from this bigger part.

Thus he went on eating from one part to the other and finally the monkey ate all the bread. The two cats became very sad. They couldn't eat the bread because of the fight between them.

The Lion and the Mouse



One hot summer day, a lion was fast asleep in the cool shade of a big tree. A mouse lived in a nearby hole. Suddenly it came out of its hole and saw the sleeping lion.

Unmindful of the lion's strength, the mouse was tickled by an idea. It thought of waking the lion by running over his body for fun only.

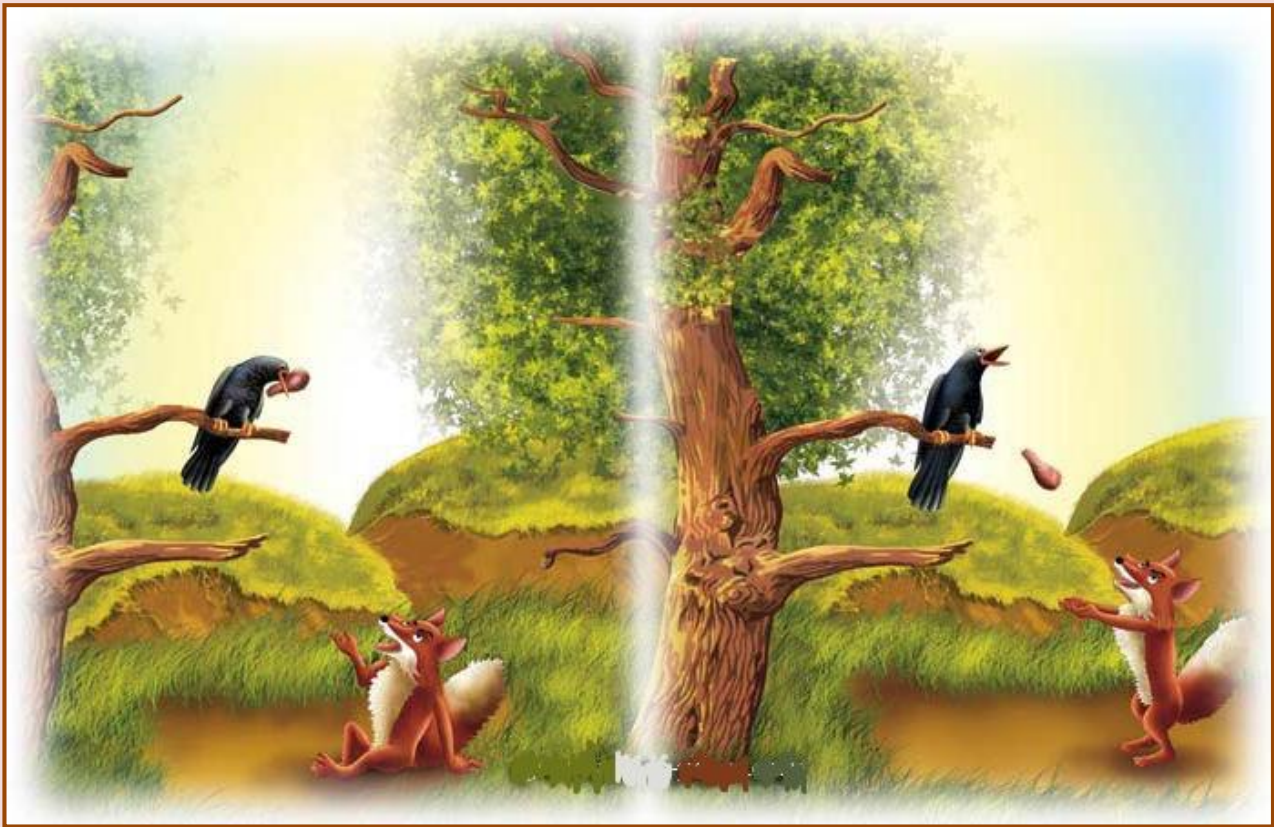
But to his bad luck, the lion seized it in his strong paw. He was going to kill it when it begged, "Spare me, sir ; I may repay your mercy some day."

The lion was amused to hear the words of the mouse and let it go with a smile. But a few days later, the lion was caught in a hunter's net under that very tree. So, he roared aloud.

The mouse came out of its hole to hear the roar. It was time to repay the lion's mercy. So, it set about nibbling the cords of the net and set the lion free in no time.



The Fox and the Crow



A Crow, having found a bit of meat, sat in a tree and held it in her beak. A hungry Fox, seeing this, envied the crow and wished to have the meat for himself. So he came up with a cunning plan.

“How gracious you are,” he exclaimed, “how beautifully your feathers shine! Oh, if only your voice were equal to your beauty, you would deserve to be called the Queen of Birds!”

The Crow was really flattered by these words, so, anxious to be called the Queen of Birds, she gave a loud caw and dropped the meat. The Fox quickly picked it up, and said to the Crow, “My dear Crow, you have a nice voice, indeed, but I’m afraid you have no wits.”



The Peacock's Complaint



A peacock was very unhappy with his ugly voice, and he spent most of his days complaining about it.

He grew envious of the nightingale with her tuneful song!



"It is true that you cannot sing," said the fox, "But look how beautiful you are!"



"Oh, but what good is all this beauty," moaned the disheartened bird, "with such an unpleasant voice!"

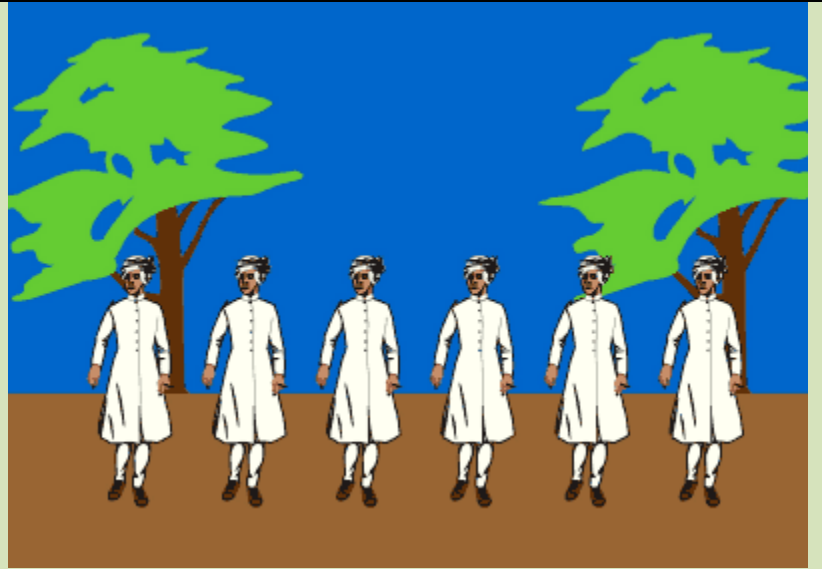
"Oh dear," said the fox, "Each one has its special gift. You have such beauty, the nightingale has his song, the owl has his eyes, and the eagle his strength. One should be happy with what one has."



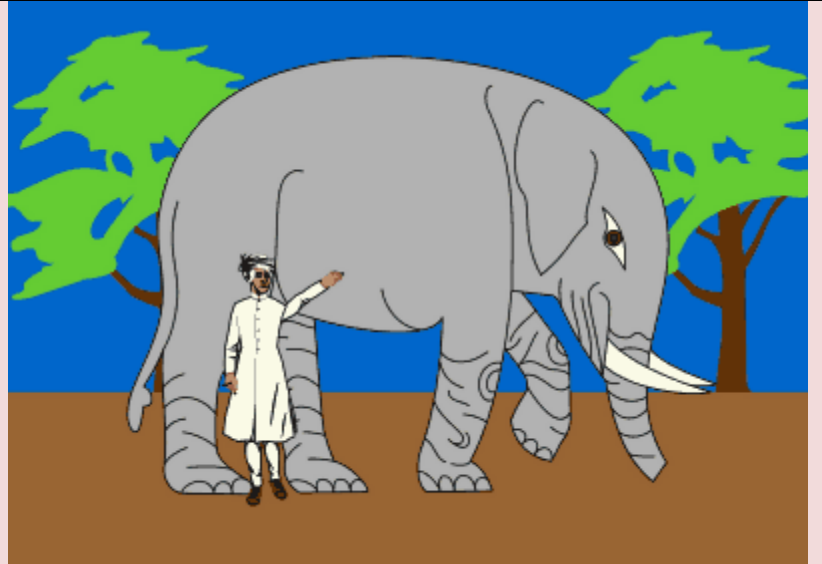
Six Blind Men & The Elephant

Once upon a time, there lived six blind men in a village. One day the villagers told them, "Hey, there is an elephant in the village today."

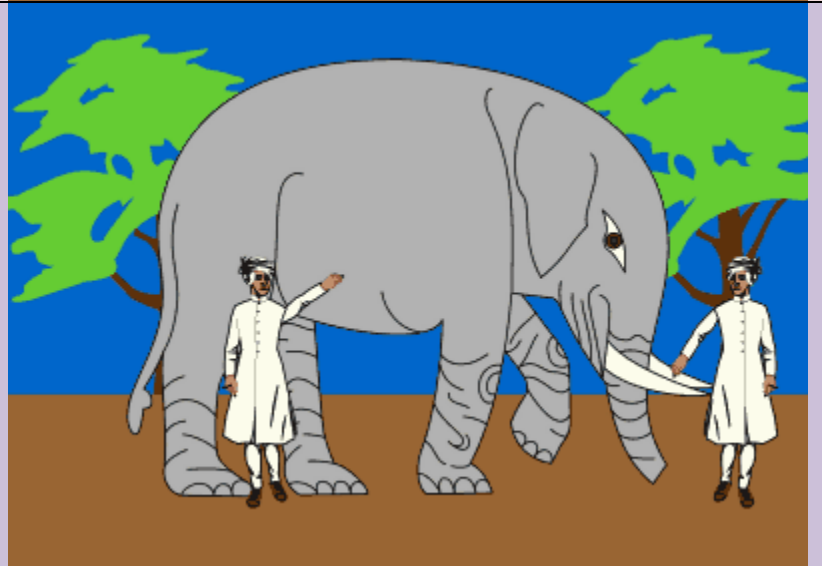
They had no idea what an elephant is. They decided, "Even though we would not be able to see it, let us go and feel it anyway." All of them went where the elephant was. Everyone of them touched the elephant.



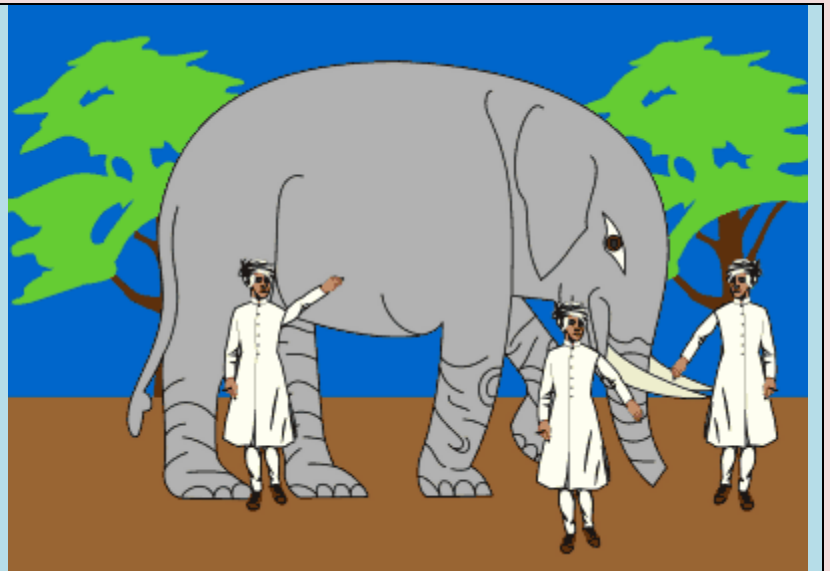
"It is like a wall!" Said the First man who touched his broad and sturdy side.



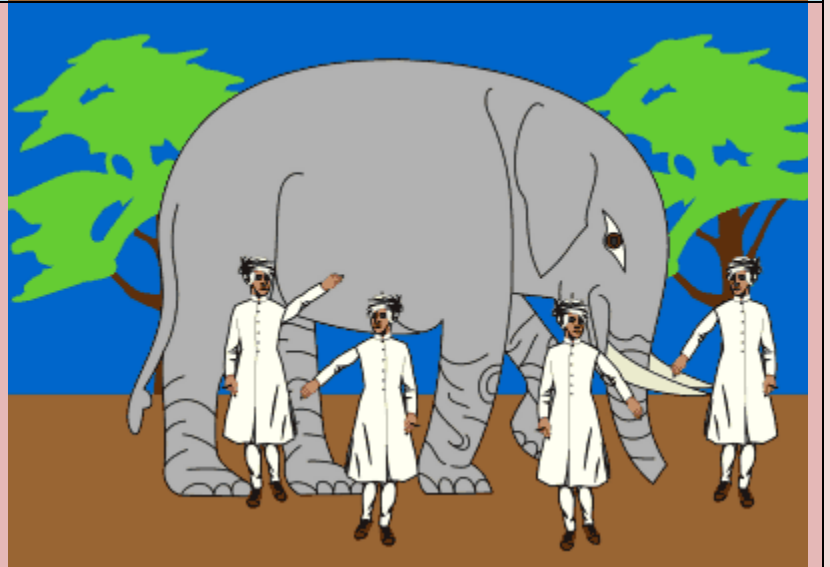
"It is like a spear," Said the Second man who touched the tusk of the elephant.



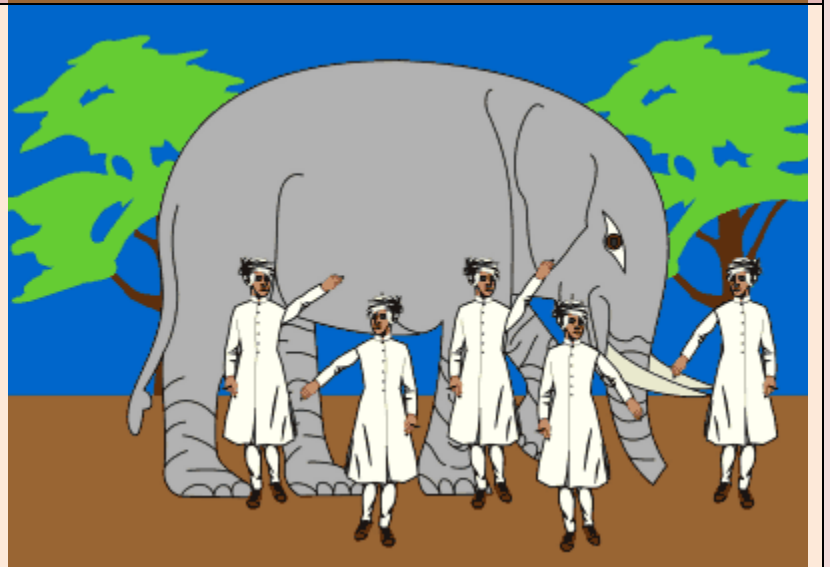
"It is like a snake," Said the Third man who touched the trunk of the elephant.



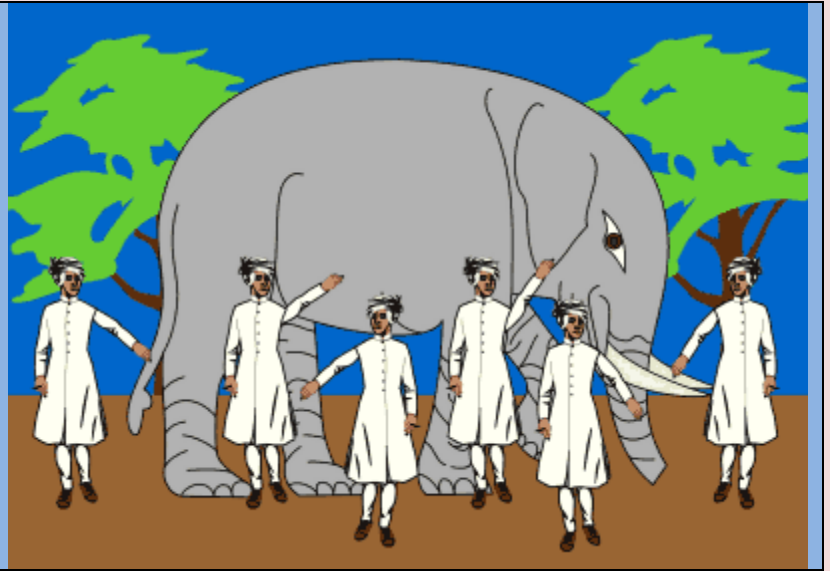
"It is like a tree," Said the Fourth man who touched the knee of the elephant.



"It is like a big hand fan" said the Fifth man who touched the ear of the elephant.



"It is like a rope " Said the Sixth man who touched the ear of the elephant.



They began to argue about the elephant and everyone of them insisted that he was right. They were all right because each one of them touched the different part of the elephant. The elephant has all those features what they said."

The Ass's Shadow

A man hired an ass from another man. He paid him two shillings to lend him the ass for the day.



It was a very hot day, and both men wanted to stand in the ass's shadow, so that they might be cool. But there was only room for one of them.

"Go away," said the man who had hired the ass. "Go away! It is my shadow today. I have hired the ass."

" You hired the ass," said the owner," but you did not hire his shadow. It is my shadow."

They went on, the hirer saying one thing and the owner saying the other. Then they began to

fight, and while they were fighting one of them happened to hit the ass. Then the ass ran away. And it took its shadow with it !

Two Frogs



Two frogs had lived in a village all their lives. they thought they would like to go and see the big city that was about ten miles away.

They talked about it for a long time, and at last they set off to see the city.

It was a hot day, and they soon began to feel tired. They had only gone a little way when one said to the other, "We must be nearly there. Can you see the city?"

"No," said the other frog; "but if I climb on your back I might be able to see it."

So he climbed up on the back of the other frog to see the city.

Now when the frog put up his head, his eyes could only see what was behind, and not what was in front. So he saw the village they had just left.

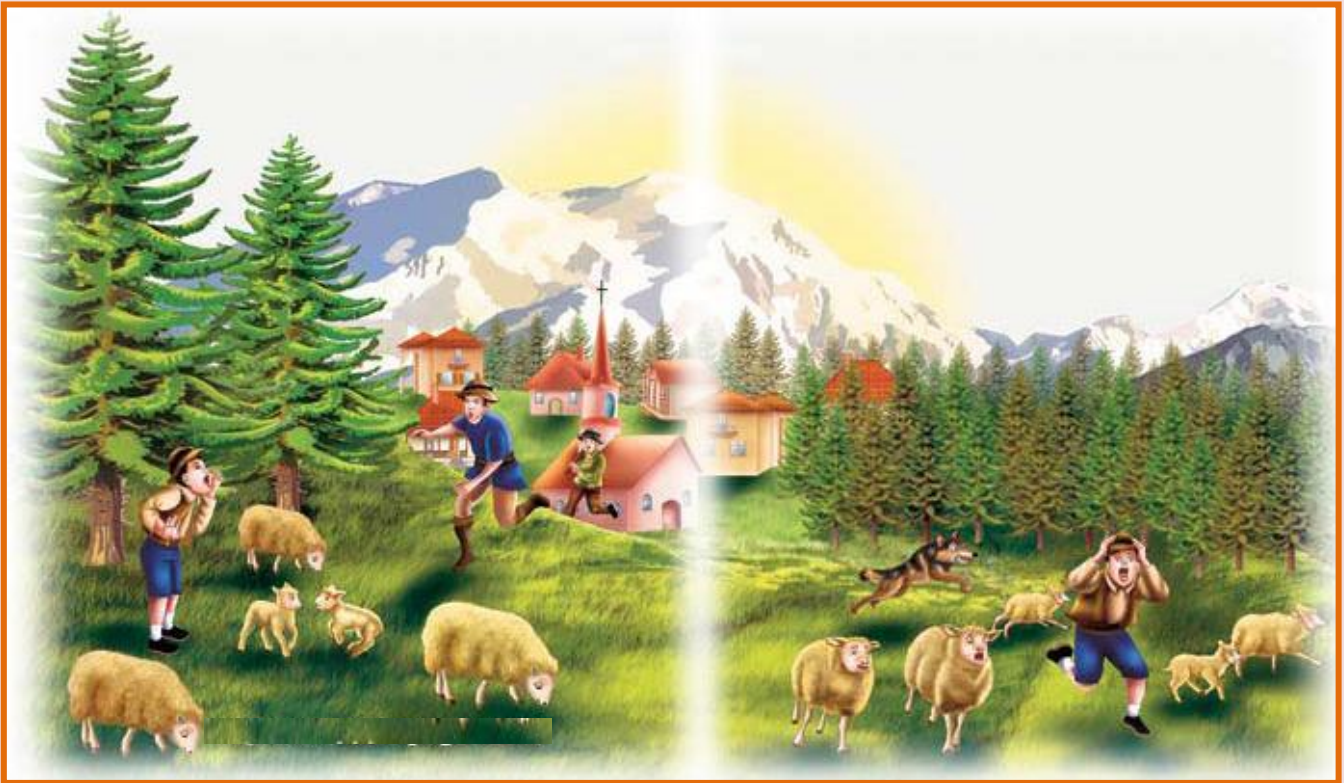
"Can you see the city?", asked the frog who was below.

"Yes," answered the frog who had climbed up. " I can see it. It looks just like our village."

Then the frogs thought that it was not worthwhile going any farther.

They went back and told the frogs round the village that they had seen the city, and it was just like theirs.

The Shepherd's Boy and the Wolf



There was once a shepherd boy who tended his sheep at the foot of a mountain near a forest. His life was pretty boring, so he thought of a plan to amuse himself and have a little fun.

He ran towards the village calling out "Wolf! Wolf!" and the villagers came out to help him, only to find him laughing like a hyena.

The boy enjoyed his trick very much, so the next day he tried it again, and fooled the villagers for the second time.

But shortly after this a wolf actually did come out from the forest and began to chase the sheep, and the boy of course cried out again, "Wolf! Wolf!." But this time the villagers didn't pay attention to him, thinking the boy was playing again with them.

So the Wolf chase all the sheeps and then went back into the forest.

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse



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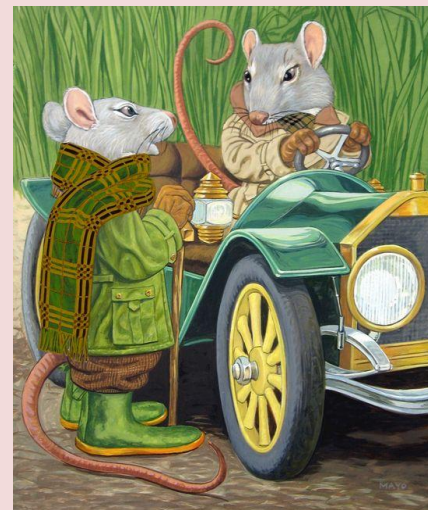
Town Mouse was invited by his cousin who lived in the countryside to spend a few days in her company. They had wheat stalks, roots, acorns and cheese for dinner.

After the meal, the town mouse invited the country mouse to visit him in the town.. So, the next day when the Town Mouse asked the Country Mouse to go home with her to the city, she accepted.

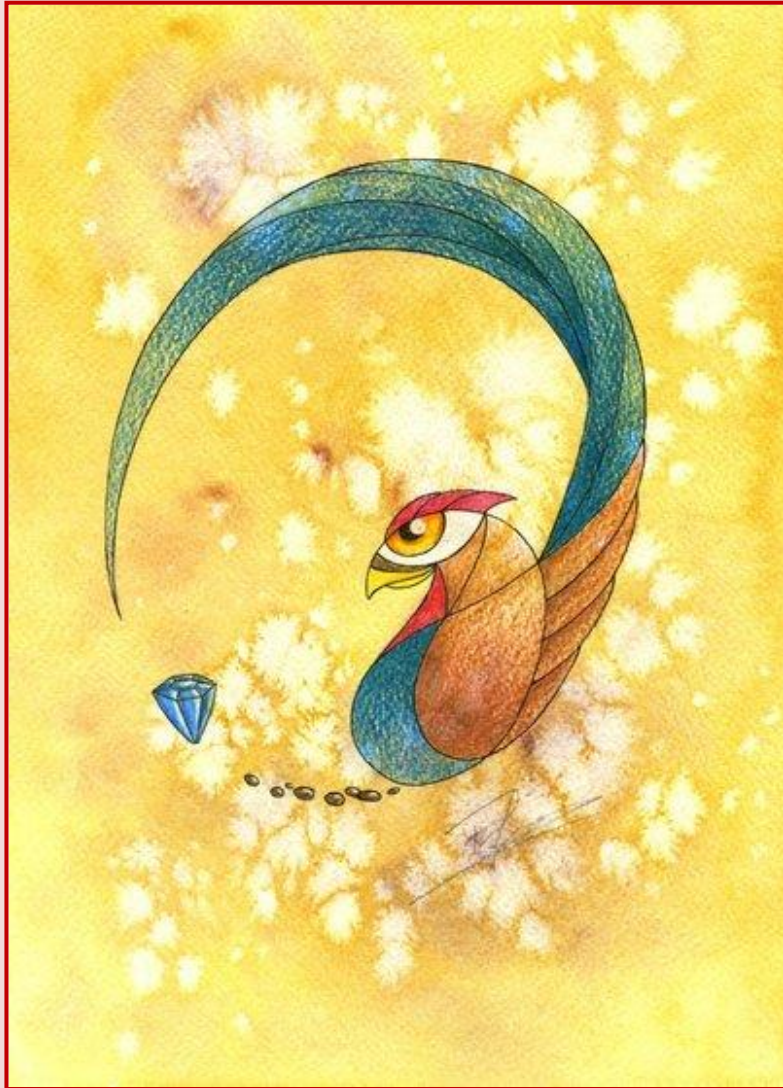
When they reached the Town Mouse's home, they found the most tempting food the Country Mouse could have imagined. But, no sooner had they started to eat, than a fierce Cat attacked them.

They managed to hide, but soon after, a Man with a Dog came in and they had to hide again. The scared Country Mouse decided to return home immediately.

“ I like being in the country,” she said as she hurried away to her home in the country.



The Cock and the Jewel



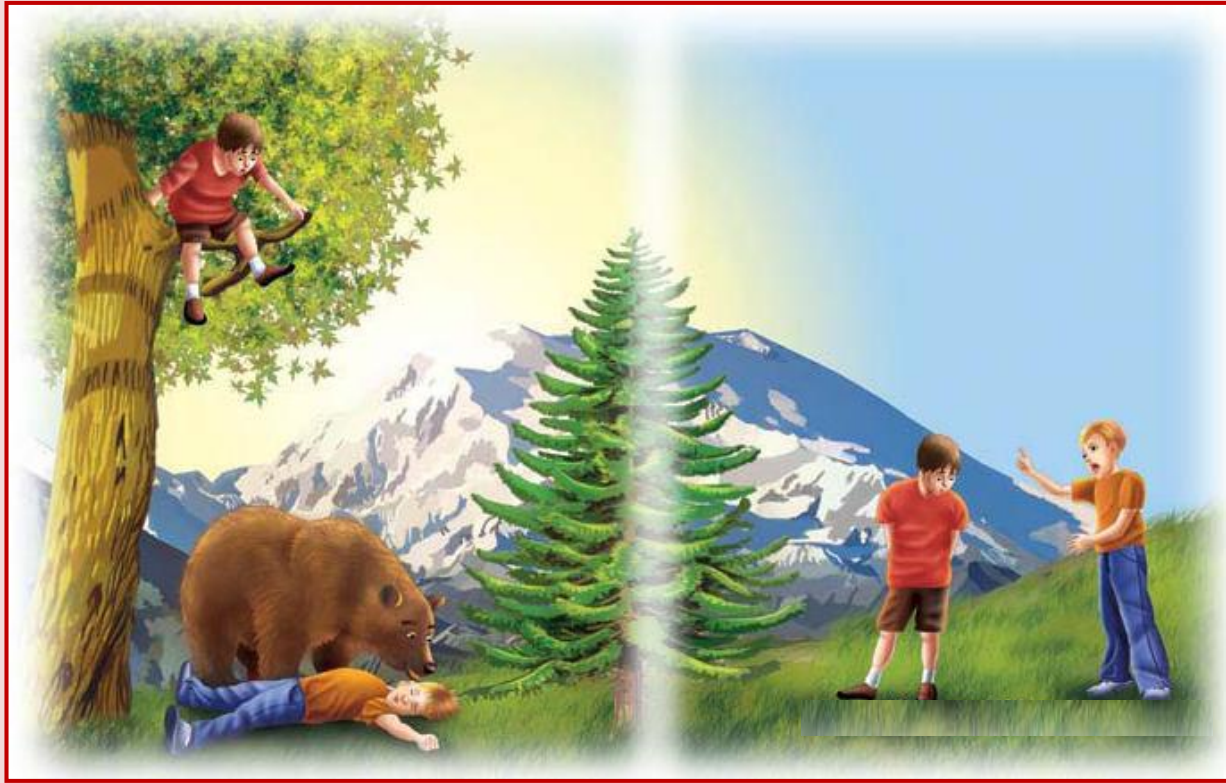
A cock was scratching the ground with his claws looking for a tasty morsel to eat.

While doing so, he chanced to turn over a stone and find a shining jewel under it.

"Cock-a doodle-do !" cried the cock and said, "It looks very fine and it may be valuable to some people. But I would rather have found a nice grain of corn."



Two Friends & the Bear



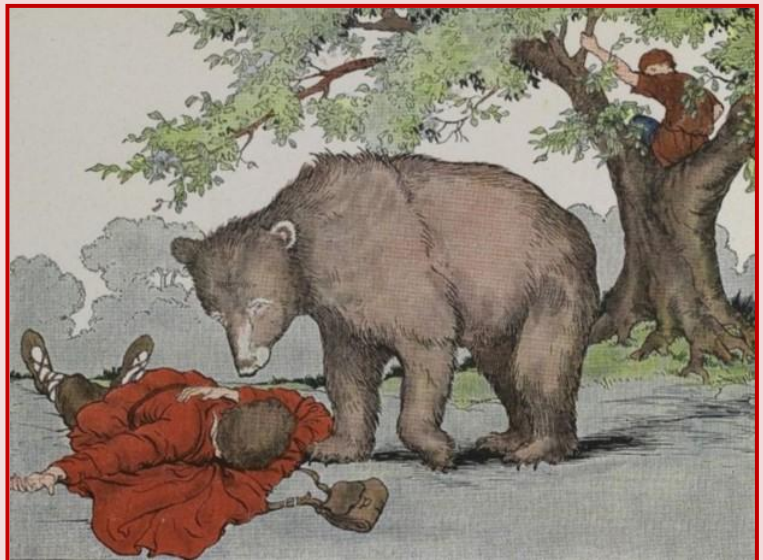
Two Friends John and Jack were roaming in the forest. A Bear suddenly appeared before them.

John climbed up quickly into a tree, without trying to help his friend Jack do the same.

Jack not having time to hide, fell flat on the ground, without moving at all. The Bear came up and smelled him all over, and after a while walked away. When the danger was gone, John climbed down from the tree.

“What did the bear whisper in your ear?” John asked Jack.

“The bear gave me this advice,” Jack replied. “Never trust a friend who does not help you in trouble.”



The geese and the tortoise



Once upon a time there lived a pair of geese and a tortoise all three of whom were great friends. Once it did not rain for a long and the lake in which they lived was drying up. They decided to leave the lake and look for a new lake.

But the tortoise could not fly. So the geese thought of a plan, where by the tortoise would have to hold a piece of stick by its mouth which would be carried by the two geese.

The only condition was that the tortoise should not speak or it will fall from the stick to death. The tortoise agreed to be silent.

But on seeing this strange arrangement, people on the way started laughing at the tortoise. Unable to control his anxiety, the turtle spoke out "What are they laughing about?", and so the turtle fell on the ground.



The Cat, The Rooster, and The Mouse



A young mouse begged his mother to let him take his first look at the world outside the mouse hole. "Very well," she answered, "but don't stay long, and come back and tell me everything you see."

The little mouse had not been gone five minutes, when he came dashing back into the mouse hole as fast as he could run. "My dear, whatever happened?" asked his mother.

"Oh, Mother," said the little mouse, trembling all over, "there are such strange creatures out there! First I saw a pretty animal, with soft, striped fur and yellow eyes. When she saw me she waved her long tail as if she were glad to see me.

But then I saw the most terrible monster! His head was all red, and his feet had long claws. And when he saw me, he opened up his mouth and let out a horrible shriek of 'Cock-a-doo-dle-do!' I ran away as fast as I could!"

"My dear," said his mother, "that pretty creature you saw was a cat, and she likes to eat young mice like you for dinner. And that terrible monster was nothing but a rooster, who only eats seeds and grain. Next time you go out, be more careful, and remember never to judge others by their looks."

The Gnat and the Lion



"Away with you, vile insect!" said a Lion angrily to a Gnat that was buzzing around his head. But the Gnat was not in the least disturbed.

"Do you think," he said spitefully to the Lion, "that I am afraid of you because they call you king?"

The next instant he flew at the Lion and stung him sharply on the nose. Mad with rage, the Lion struck fiercely at the Gnat, but only succeeded in tearing himself with his claws.

Again and again the Gnat stung the Lion, who now was roaring terribly. At last, worn out with rage and

covered with wounds that his own teeth and claws had made, the Lion gave up the fight.

The Gnat buzzed away to tell the whole world about his victory, but instead he flew straight into a spider's web. And there, he who had defeated the King of beasts got caught in a little spider's web.



The Crow and the Owl



Long ago, the crow used to be a white bird. In his neighbourhood, lived an owl who had a dye shop. He flew down to the owl's shop and asked if his white body could be coloured.

"I want to be the most beautiful bird in the world," he said. The owl agreed and asked him to come the next day. Now the owl was slightly blind but he was too vain to wear spectacles. While mixing the colours for the crow, he poured black instead of lilac.

The crow arrived early the next day. "There you are!" said the owl "Your colors are ready. Just dive into that pool of water." The crow lost no time and dived in. But alas! When he emerged, he saw that he was dark in color. He seethed with anger and cawed at the owl, "Why have you made me black? Wait till I catch you!"

The frightened owl flew away and came out only at night when the crow was asleep. Since then, crows are black and owls' venture out only at night.

You Are Beautiful As You Are



There was once a crow who did not like his feathers.

"I wish I were a peacock!" he would say.

"You are beautiful as you are!" the other crows insisted.

"How plain and dull you seem to me!" he'd complain, and fly off to admire peacocks.

The peacocks strutted about with their colorful tail feathers outstretched. To the delight of the crow, some of the peacock feathers lay on the ground when the peacocks left.

Crow flew down to the ground and stuck the feathers into his wings and tail. He attached a few sticking up from his head.

"Now I am as beautiful as a peacock," he said.

But, when he went to join them in their strutting, the peacocks poked him and pecked him. What a fuss!

"You are not a peacock," they said, "Don't imitate us!"

Bruised and still dragging some broken peacock feathers in his tail, he returned home.

After all his insults, no one wanted his company!

As he sat alone, the other crows said, "It's foolish to try and be what you're not. Learn to love the feathers you've got!"

The Peacock and the Crow



A crow was sitting on a branch of a tree when a peacock shows up.

"Everyone look at me!" says the peacock. "Look at my feathers! They are colorful and brilliant! I am so beautiful!"

"Are you still admiring yourself?" asks the crow.

"Of course, my friend. I have colorful feathers. Aren't they pretty?" asks the peacock.

"Sure they are," answers the crow. "But why do you have to show off everyday? People are getting tired of you!"

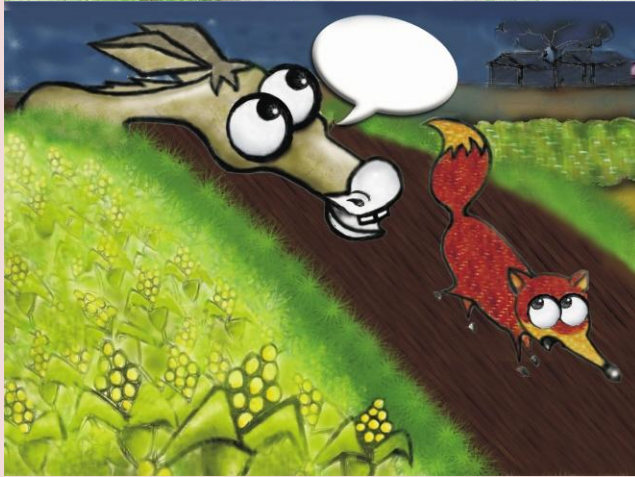
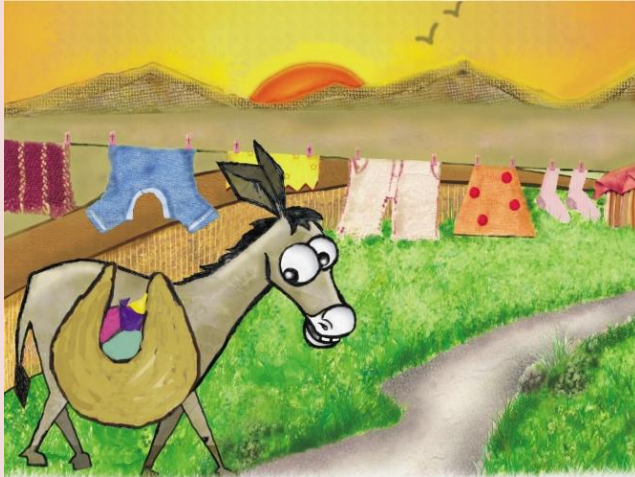
"People envy me!" says the peacock. "Look at you. You are so very, very black. You don't even have a bit of colors on your wings. You are ugly, too!"

"You're right, peacock," says the crow. "But there is one thing an ugly black crow can do, but you can't."

"And what is that?" asks the peacock.

"I can go up to the sky and talk to the stars. I can fly, peacock!"

The singing Donkey



A donkey and a jackal were friends. One night they were walking together and felt hungry. They saw a field in which cucumbers were growing. They went inside to eat the cucumbers.

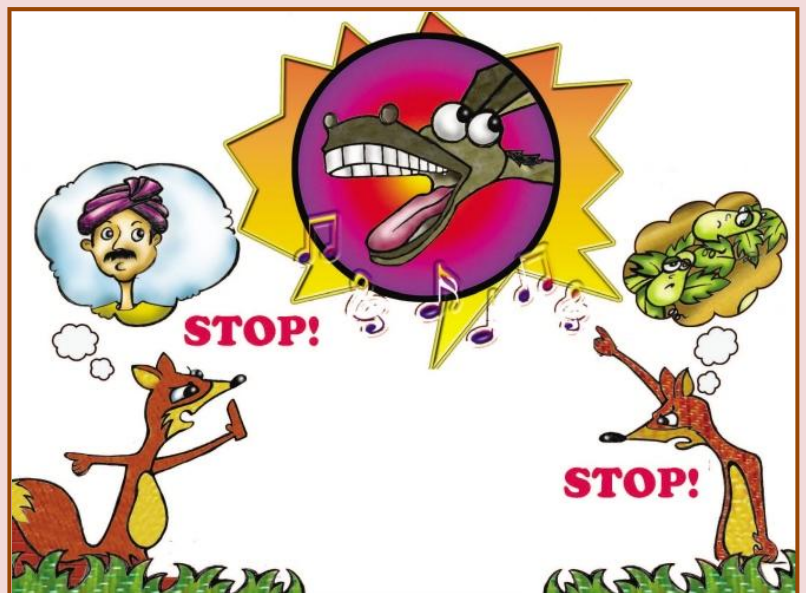


They ate and ate till they could eat no more.



The donkey was feeling nice and full and said to the jackal, “Little one, what a beautiful night this is ! I’m so happy that I want to sing.”

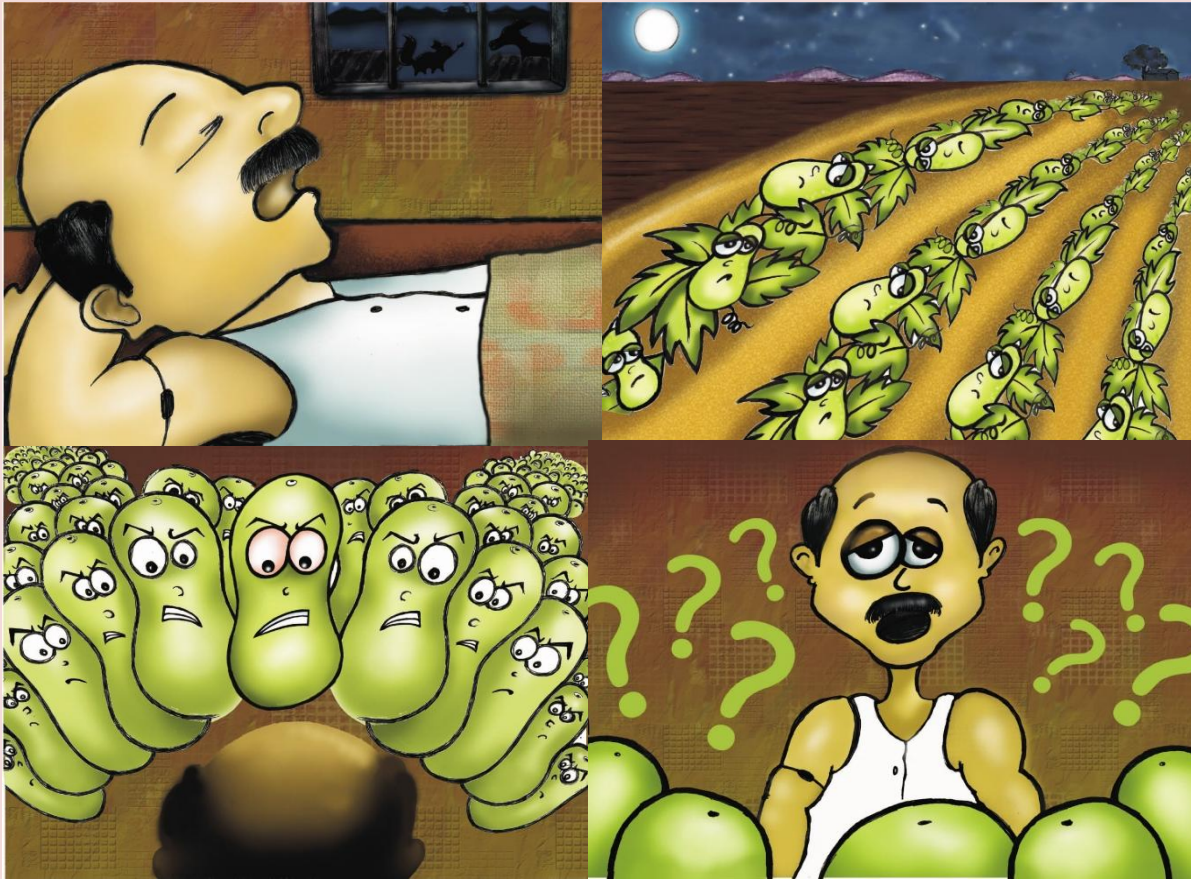
“Please don’t sing, Uncle,” said the jackal. “It might get us into trouble. The farmers will hear you and will come running with their sticks. Besides, you don’t know the first thing about singing. Your voice is loud like a horn.”



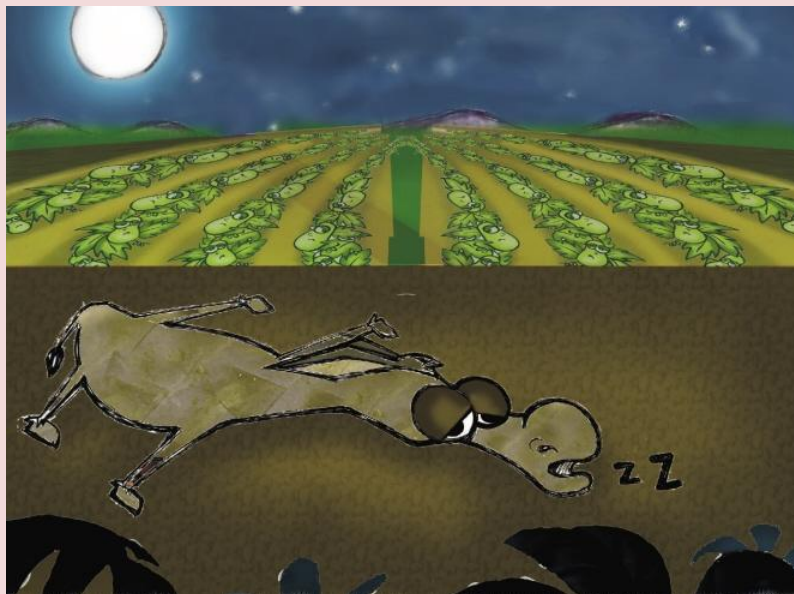
“Come, come,” said the donkey. “You seem to know nothing about music. When you’ve heard my song, you’ll surely like it.”

“Very well, Uncle,” said the jackal. “But first let me get away. You can then sing as much as you like.”

After the jackal had gone, the donkey lifted his head and began to bray loudly.



On hearing him the farmers came running with their sticks. They gave him a good beating and drove him away from the field.



Next day the jackal met the donkey. "Uncle, did you enjoy your singing ?" he asked.

Little one," said the donkey, "you were quite right. I am sorry I did not listen to your advice."



Red Hen & the Fox

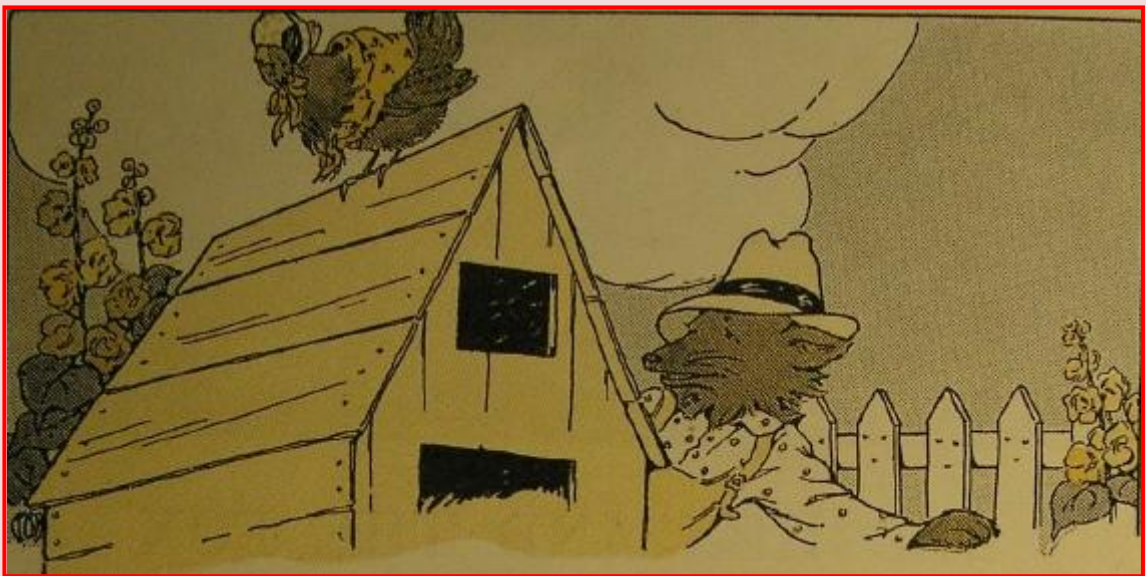


Red Hen lived in a little red house. Near the house lived Sly Fox. His mother lived with him.

One day Mother Fox said: "I want a hen to eat."

"Very well, Mother," said Sly Fox, "I will get one for you. Give me a bag. Have a pot of water hot."

Then Sly Fox went to Red Hen's house.



"I'll stay here till I see her," he said.

Red Hen was in her garden. She saw Sly Fox.

"What shall I do?" she cried. "I'll fly up on my little house. A fox cannot fly."

When Sly Fox saw Red Hen on the house, he said, "I'll get her now."

So he ran round and round the house. It made Red Hen so dizzy that she fell off the house.

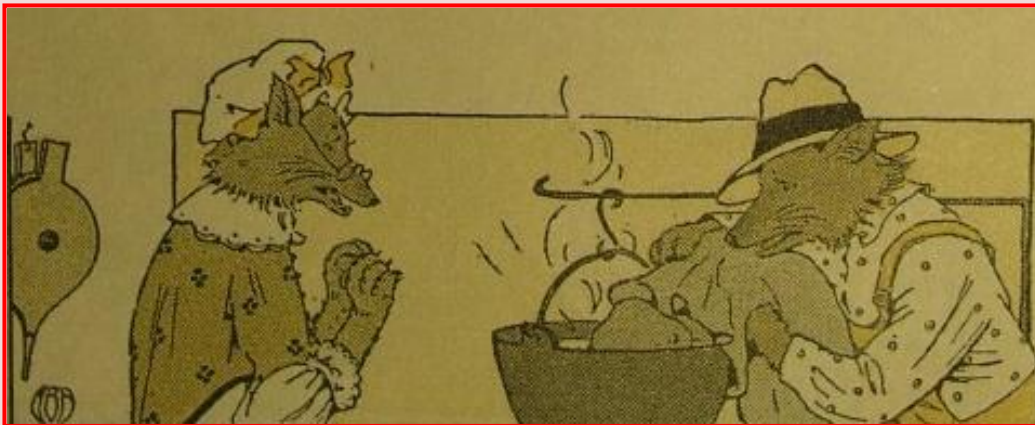


Sly Fox put her into his bag and away he ran.



Red Hen was so heavy that Sly Fox stopped to rest. Soon he was asleep.

"Now is my time," said Red Hen. She took her little scissors and cut a hole in the bag. Out she jumped and found a stone. She put the stone in the bag and tied up the hole. Then home she ran and into the house she flew. "He'll not catch me again," she said.



Sly Fox opened his eyes. Then he picked up the bag and walked off.

"This Red Hen is heavy," he said.

Mother Fox saw him coming. "The water is hot," she called. "Have you Red Hen?"

"Yes, Mother, in my bag," he said.

"Hold the bag over the pot," said Mother Fox. "Let Red Hen drop in."

Sly Fox picked up the bag. Into the pot fell a big, big stone!

The Tiger and the Woodpecker



One day a bone got stuck in a tiger's teeth while he was eating some flesh. He tried hard to remove it but could not. Helpless, he started roaring in pain.

A woodpecker sitting nearby saw the tiger's discomfort and asked what the matter was. The tiger pointed to the bone stuck in his teeth. The woodpecker promised to remove the bone from his teeth on the condition that the tiger would always give him a portion of his food. The tiger agreed and the woodpecker took out the bone with its sharp beak.



One day, the tiger had caught a fat prey and the woodpecker asked for his share. The tiger refused and said, "You should be thankful that I did not kill you when you entered my mouth." The woodpecker was very angry at the ungrateful tiger. He struck the tiger in one eye with his beak. The tiger roared with pain and the woodpecker said, "You should be thankful that I didn't struck both your eyes."

The Monkey & the Crocodile



There was a big lake. In that lake a Crocodile used to live with his wife. By the side of the lake was a big mango tree. On that tree one monkey called Chathura used to live. Mango season came.

The mango tree was full of mangos. The monkey used to eat lots of sweet mangos.

One day, the crocodile swam near the tree and asked Chathura, “I see you are eating something. Can you also give me one?”

Chathura happily plucked two mangos and dropped them into the water. The crocodile ate them and liked them. From then on, daily Chathura gave a few mangos to the crocodile.

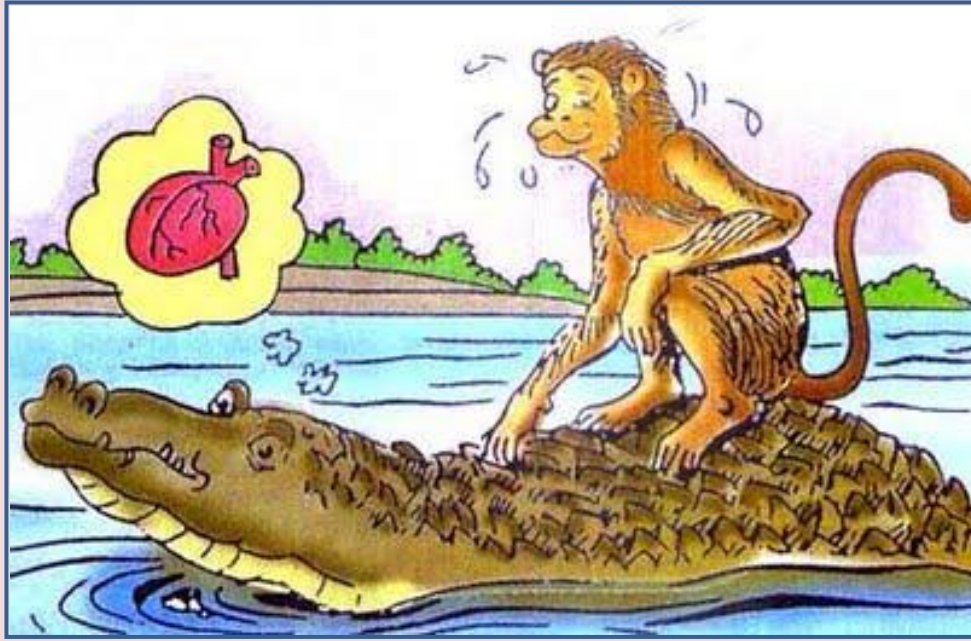
One day the crocodile took a few mangos to his wife who liked them very much. She asked the crocodile, “You say that the monkey on the tree eats lot of this sweet fruit. I am sure his heart will be very sweet. I would like to eat the monkey’s brain.”

Crocodile told his wife that Chathura was a good monkey and to take out his heart one has to kill him. The crocodile’s wife started crying. The crocodile promised his wife that he would somehow bring the monkey’s heart.

He then swam near the mango tree and told the monkey, “My wife is very sad because you are not visiting our house. Today she has made some special sweets only for you. Please come to my house.”

Chathura replied, “Of course, I would also like to come. But you live in the middle of water and I do not know how to swim.”

Then the crocodile told the monkey, “That is no problem at all. You can sit on my back and I can carry you to my home.”



The monkey agreed and climbed on the crocodile’s back. When they were deep inside the water, the crocodile laughed and told him, “Actually my wife wanted to eat your heart. That is why I am taking you. Today we will both eat your heart.”

The monkey who was very clever replied, “You should have told this earlier. My heart became wet in yesterday's rain. So I had taken it out and hanged on the tree for drying.”

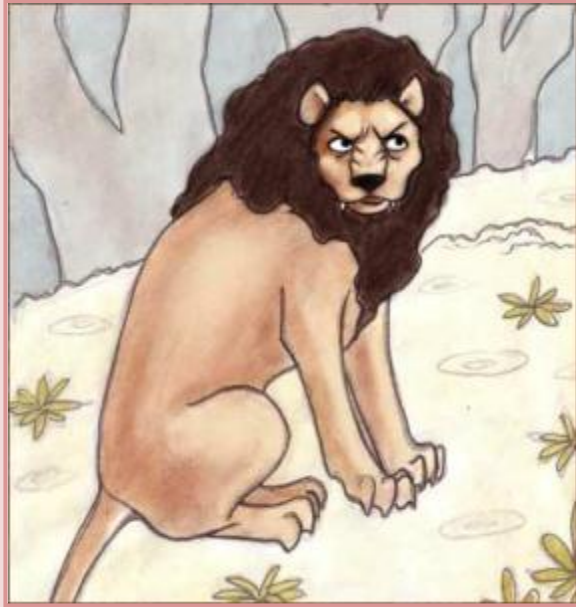
Hearing this, the crocodile told to the monkey, “If that is the case, I will take you to the mango tree. You can climb on the tree and bring back your heart. If I take you without your brain, my wife will be very angry.”



The monkey agreed, and as soon as they reached the shore, it jumped climbed on the tree and threw a very big stone on the crocodile and told him, “Hey, foolish crocodile, I was giving you fruits. Still you wanted to kill me. Now I will not give you any more fruits.”



Foolish Lion and Clever Hare



Once upon a time, there lived a ferocious lion named Bhasuraka in a jungle. Every day he hunted and killed many animals to satisfy his hunger.

The animals were worried that one day none of them would be left alive. They all decided to go to the lion and find a solution to this problem.

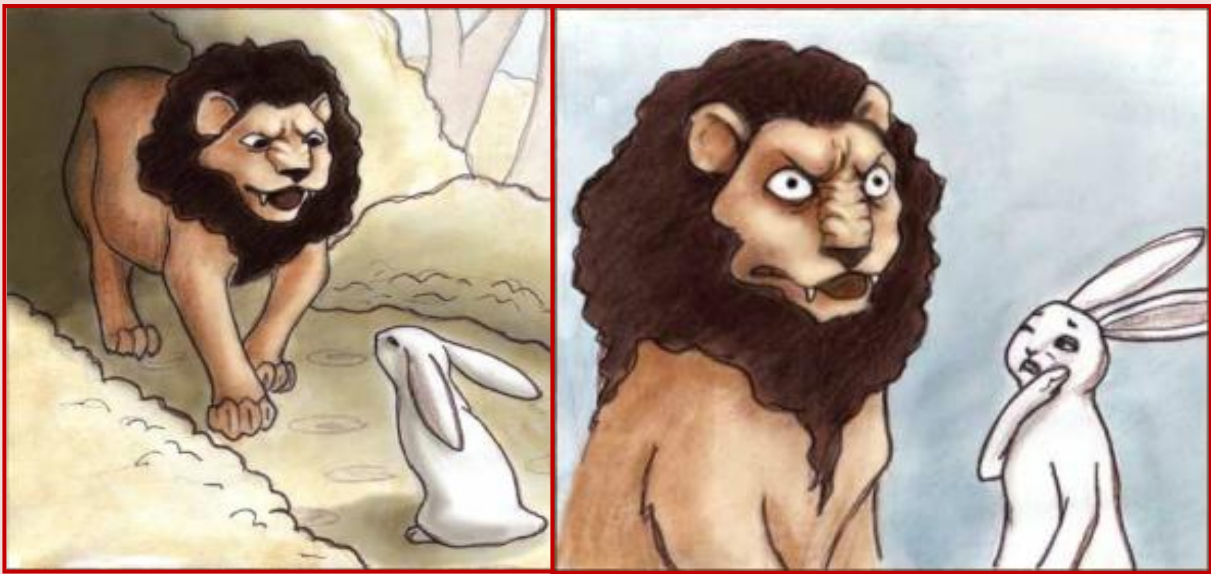
The animals suggested that if the lion stayed home, one animal each day will go to the lion and he can have him for his as food. The lion agreed to this offer and said that if they ever failed to send him an animal, he would go kill all of the animals.



From then on, each day an animal was sent to the lion and the lion was pleased.



One day it was the turn an old little rabbit to go to the lion. This old rabbit did not want to be the lion's meal. He thought of a plan that would save his life as well as the lives of all the other animals in the jungle.

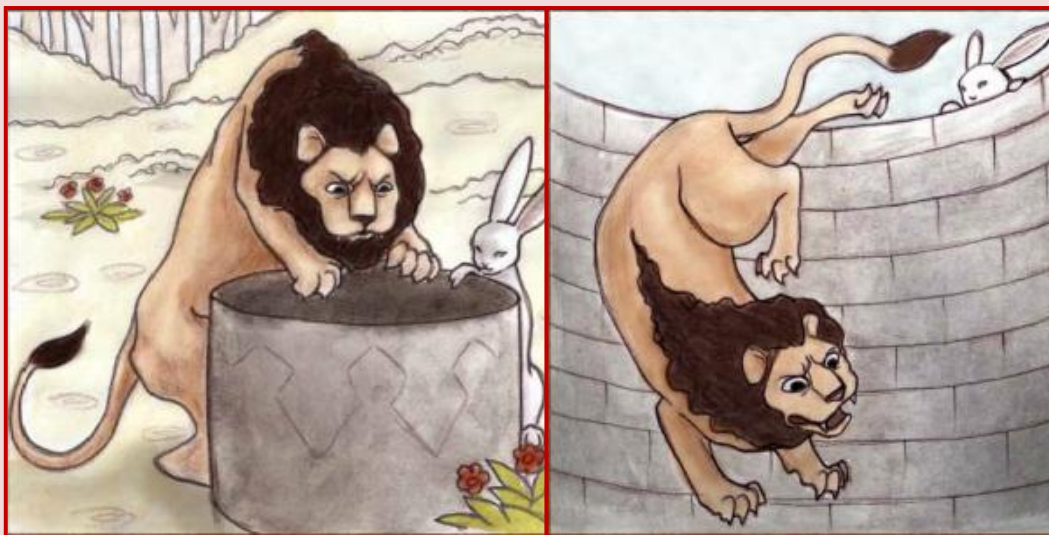


The rabbit slowly made his way to the lion's den. The lion was pacing up and down, extremely hungry. He wanted to kill all the animals in a rage.

The rabbit timidly explained that on his way he met another lion who said that he was the king of the forest not Bhasuraka! "That other lion wants to kill you!" said the rabbit.

The lion was furious. He asked the rabbit to take him to the other lion as he wanted to kill him.

The little rabbit led the lion to a well and told him that the other lion was in there. The lion peered into the well and saw his own reflection.



He thought it was the other lion. Mad with rage, the lion let out a huge roar, which echoed back at him. He immediately jumped into the well to attack what he thought was the other lion. The lion dashed his head against the rocks and drowned. The happy little rabbit returned to other animals to spread the good news.



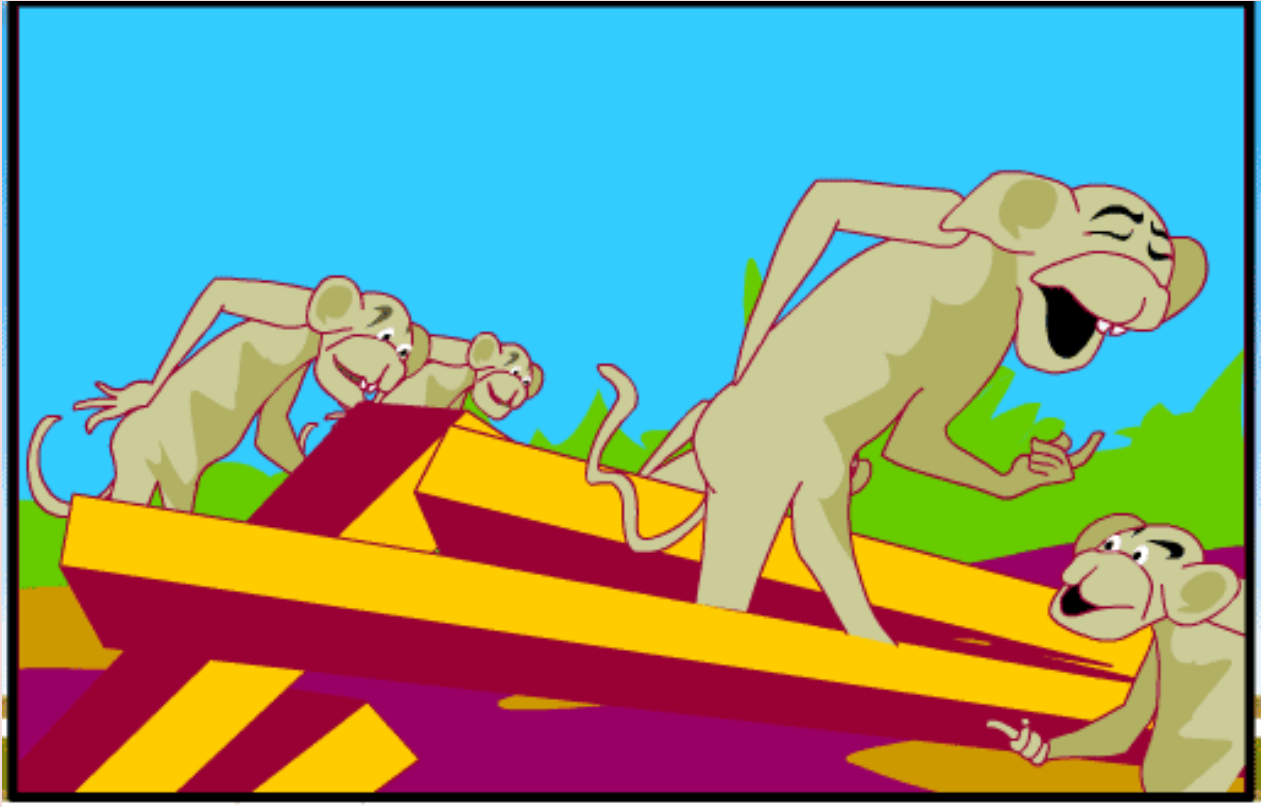
Once upon a time there was a fox walking happily in a bushy land near the jungle when he saw a big drum hung on a branch of a small tree, and whenever the wind blew the trees' branches hit the drum hard and a loud noise would be heard.

The fox became hungry and greedy when he saw the drum, "it is big and fat, it should be very tasty" he thought.

So he attacked the drum and ripped the leather surface, the drum was hollow and empty.

The fox was very disappointed and left to find something else to eat.

The Wedge Pulling Monkey.



Once upon a time in a city, men were building a house. Every day in the afternoon the men went out for lunch. The men were working on a huge log. Before they went out for lunch they put a wedge between the split logs.

One day a group of monkeys came to the half built house. There the monkeys began their playful tricks lofty roof and the wood pile.

One of the monkeys started playing on the huge log with his feet inside the split logs. He did not stop his playfulness there. He thought: “Who stuck this wedge in this strange place?”

So he seized the wedge with both hands and started pulling it loose. The wedge came off and his legs were tightly stuck inside the split logs. He was in a lot of pain. When the men came, then they freed the monkey!

The Foolish Monkey



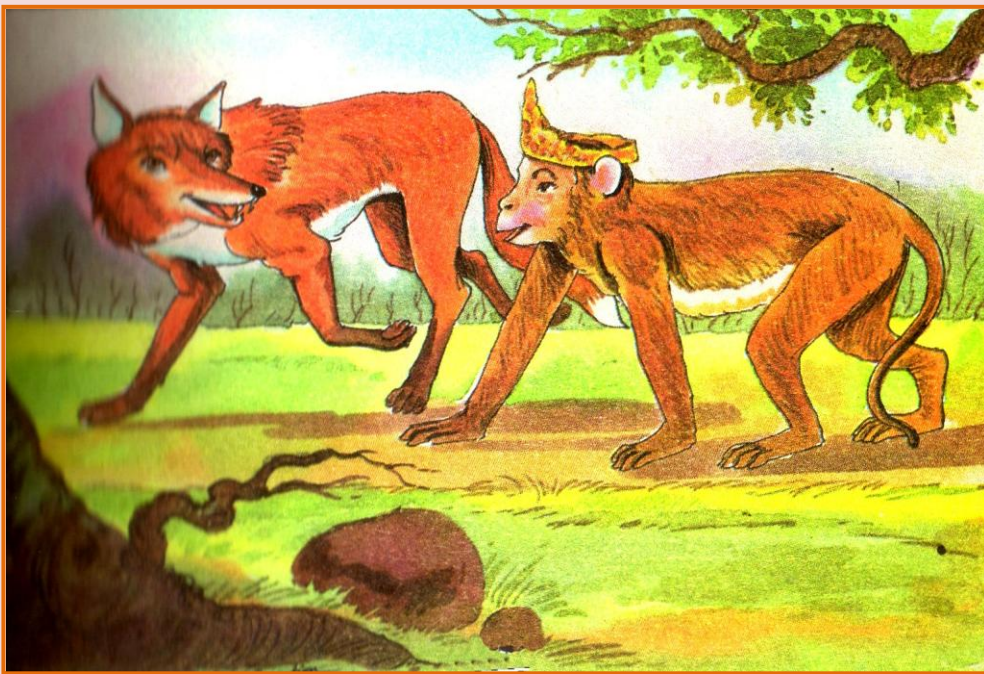
Long ago the lion, king of the forest died leaving no heir to the crown. All the animals of the forest gathered to choose a new king.

The animals began arguing among themselves as to whose head the beautiful crown studded with diamonds would fit, instead of who was better suited to be the king.

Many of the animals tried to put on the crown, but the crown was too big or too small on most of them.

When all the animals had given up hope of finding someone whose head would fit the crown, a Monkey insisted on trying the crown.

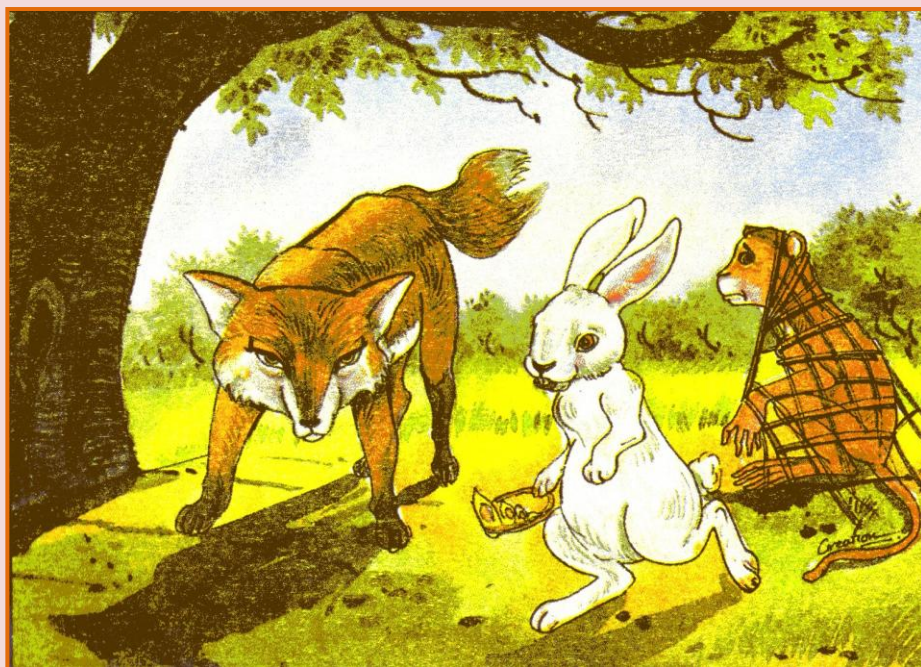
He took the crown and started doing all sort of tricks. He held the crown round his waist like a belt, then slipped it onto his arm and made it whirl. He then balanced it on his hind legs and dancing in and out of the crown as if it was a hoop for circus animals.



All the animals liked monkey's tricks and chose him as their king. The Fox did not like that

One fine morning the Fox went to the Monkey and said, "Your Majesty, I've just come across some treasure in the forest and as our king, you alone should have it. Please come with me and I'll show you where it is." The Monkey went with the fox, but instead of finding any treasure he found himself trapped. The Fox hurried into the forest to tell all other animals.

"Look at your king, he got trapped! He is not fit to be our king!" The other animals also thought that the Monkey was not fit to be their king. They took the crown away.



The Fox who lost his Tail

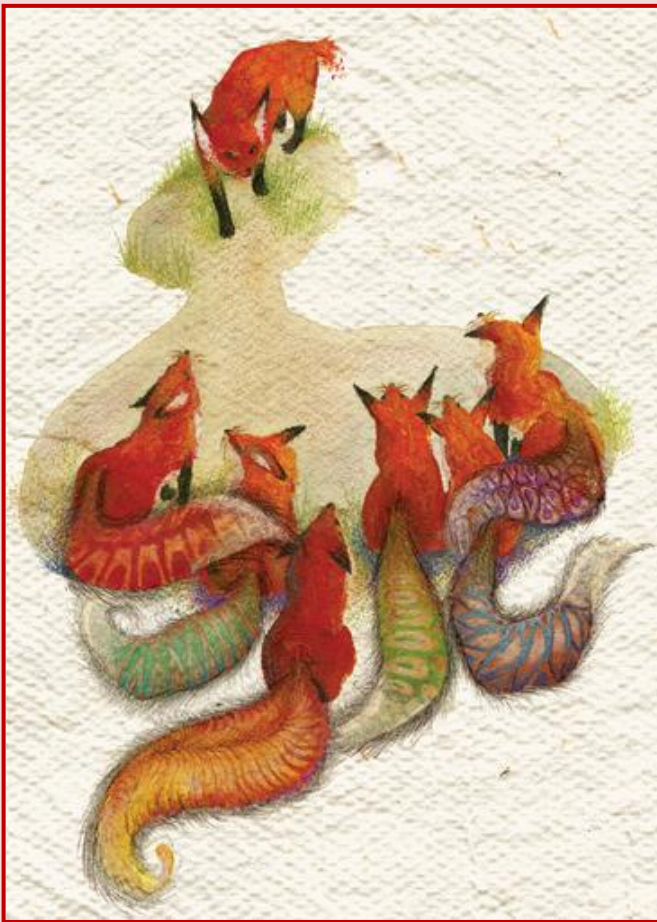


A fox lost his tail in escaping from a steel trap.

When he began to go about again, he found that every one looked down upon or laughed at him.

Not liking this, he thought to himself that if he could persuade the other foxes to cut off

their tails, his own loss would not be so noticeable.



So he called together the foxes and said: "How is it that you still wear your tails? Of what use are they?"

They are in the way, they often get caught in traps, they are heavy to carry and not pretty to look upon.

Believe me, we are far better without them. Cut off your tails, my friends, and you will see how much more comfortable it is.

I for my part have never enjoyed myself so much nor found life so pleasant as I have since I lost mine."

Upon this, a sly old fox, seeing through the trick, cried, "It seems to me, my friend, that you would not be so anxious for us to cut off our tails, if you had not already lost yours."

The Ox and the Frog



"Oh Father," said a little Frog to the big one sitting by the side of a pool, "I have seen such a terrible monster! It was big as a mountain, with horns on its head, and a long tail, and it had hoofs divided in two."

"Tush, child, tush," said the old Frog, "that was only Farmer White's Ox. It isn't so big either; he may be a little bit taller than I, but I could easily make myself quite as broad; just you see."

So he blew himself out, and blew himself out, and blew himself out.

"Was he as big as that?" asked he.

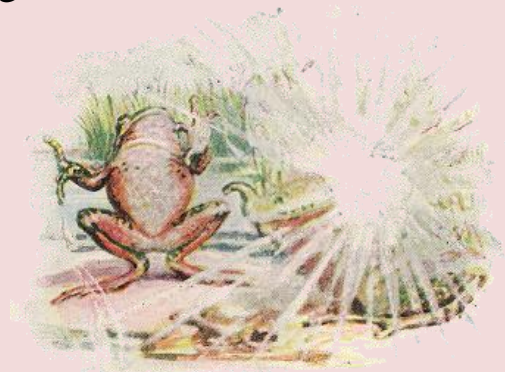
"Oh, much bigger than that," said the young Frog.

Again the old one blew himself out, and asked the young one if the Ox was as big as that.

"Bigger, Father, bigger," was the reply.

So the Frog took a deep breath, and blew and blew and blew, and swelled and swelled.

And then he said, "I'm sure the Ox is not as big as this."
But at that moment he burst.



The Blue Jackal

Once a jackal was searching for food. He reached a nearby town. The street dogs in the town started chasing the jackal. The jackal fell over a fence in a drum. The drum was full of blue color and jackal became blue in color.



The dogs growled at the fence. Little Jackal was now safe in the bucket. When he was sure the dogs were nowhere in sight out he popped from the bucket.



When he looked his legs they were blue! His arms were blue! Even his head was blue!

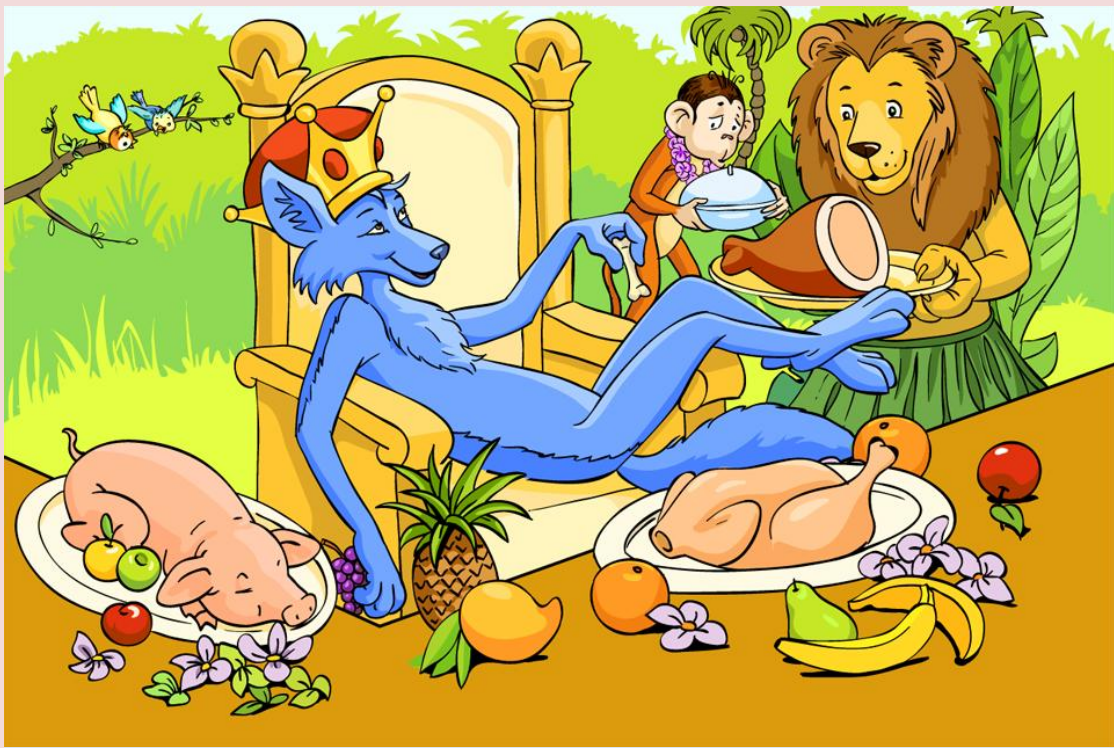


When the jackal returned none of the animals could recognize him. They thought him to be a new animal



They accepted him as their king.

All animals started obeying to the jackal's commands.



They brought the blue jackal all different kind of food.



Once during night the jackal heard the howling of other fellow jackals. He could not stop the temptation to howl in reply. When other animals heard his howling they became aware of the truth and beat him up.

The Chota Hathi



A long time ago, when all the world was new, the animals were not like they are to-day.

For instance, the elephants, they had grey leathery skin, just like to-day; they had big flappy ears, just like to-day; but their noses were no bigger than ours!

Now, living in India, was a herd of elephants, big ones, medium ones and small ones.

The smallest one of all was known as "Chota Hathi", little elephant. Chota Hathi was always asking questions, every day he would think of a different question to ask.

He would ask his Uncle Rhinoceros: "Oh Genda Chacha, why have you got that tooth on the end of your nose?" And Genda Chacha didn't know, so he spanked Chota Hathi with his hard, hard hoof.



Another day Chota Hathi asked his Auntie Leopard "Chhita Chachi, why are you covered in spots?" And Chhita Chachi didn't know, so she spanked him with her gracefully waving tail!

One day he met his Uncle Peacock, "Mora Chacha why is your tail such beautiful colours?" And Mora Chacha didn't know and he spanked Chota Hathi with his sharp, sharp claw! But all this spanking did not stop Chota Hathi asking questions.





One morning Chota Hathi woke up with a brand new question, he wanted to know what the Crocodile had for dinner.

He asked all his friends and relations "Please do you know what Shriman Mugger Mach has for dinner?" He asked his cousins the Deer "Oh Hiran Bhai do you know what Shriman Mugger Mach has for dinner?" But they just ran away, they were very shy. At last Chota Hathi remembered his Great Grandmother Elephant.

She was the oldest and wisest of the herd, surely she would know what Shriman Mugger Mach had for dinner. "Oh Vadinani Hathi please can you tell me what Shriman Mugger Mach has for dinner? "



Now Great Grandmother Hathi was very wise, she said to Chota Hathi "I don't know what the Crocodile has for dinner, but I can tell you how to find him.

You will have to go on a long journey across a grassy plain, through the jungle, over a high mountain, until you come to the Great Grey Green Greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever trees.

There you will find Shriman Mugger Mach and you can ask him what he has for dinner." So Chota Hathi set off. He went across the grassy plain, until he came to the jungle.



As he went through the jungle, the Monkeys in the trees called to him and asked him where he was going. He told them he was going to find Shriman Mugger Mach, to ask him what he had for dinner.

He asked the Monkeys if they knew, but they just laughed and threw coconuts and bananas at him!

Next he came to the mountain, and up, up, up he climbed.

From the top he could see a river in the distance. That must be the Great grey green greasy Limpopo river, he thought.



Down he went and came to some trees on the river bank.

He saw a large snake wound around one of the trees. "Namaste, Naga Chachi," said Chota Hathi, "I am looking for Shriman Mugger Mach, I don't suppose you know where he is, I want to ask him a question." Naga Chachi said "See that

brown log in the water, that is Shriman Mugger Mach, you can ask him now, but be careful." "Thankyou, Naga Chachi " said Chota Hathi.

He called out politely "Namaste, Shriman Mugger Mach, I've come to ask you what you have for dinner."

The brown log opened two eyes, and said "Come a little closer, I can't hear you."

So Chota Hathi took a step closer, and said "I've come to ask you what you have for dinner, Shriman Mugger Mach." "Come a little closer, I still can't hear you." said Shriman Mugger Mach.



So Chota Hathi took another step closer and said, "I've come to ask you what you have for dinner, Shriman Mugger Mach." "Come a little closer, I must have got some water in my ears!"



So Chota Hathi took another step closer ... and Shriman Mugger Mach opened his wide mouth and said ... "To-day I'm having Chota Hathi!"

He grabbed Chota Hathi by his little nose and began to pull him into the river. "Helb, helb, you're hurting me!" said Chota Hathi

"Leggo of my nose!"

But Shriman Mugger Mach kept pulling Chota Hathi into the river.

Luckily, Naga Chachi heard Chota Hathi's calls for help, and unwound half of her long body from the tree and wound the other half around Chota Hathi's back legs. "Now, pull, Chota Hathi!" she said.

So Chota Hathi and Naga Chachi pulled up the bank, and Shriman Mugger Mach pulled into the river.

There was a tremendous tug of war, but with one last great heave, Naga Chachi pulled Chota Hathi up the bank and safe from Shriman Mugger Mach.

"Oh thankyou very, very much." said Chota Hathi "But oh dear, what has happened to my nose?" Chota Hathi's nose had been stretched into a long trunk.



"I wonder what my friends and relations will say? I expect they will spank me! Namaste Naga Chachi, and thankyou again for saving me." Chota Hathi set off back home.

He went over the high mountain. He came to the jungle.

The monkeys saw him coming and they laughed and laughed when they saw his long nose. Without even thinking about it, Chota Hathi picked a coconut off a tree and threw it at the Bandar, using his long nose! This trunk was going to be quite useful after all!

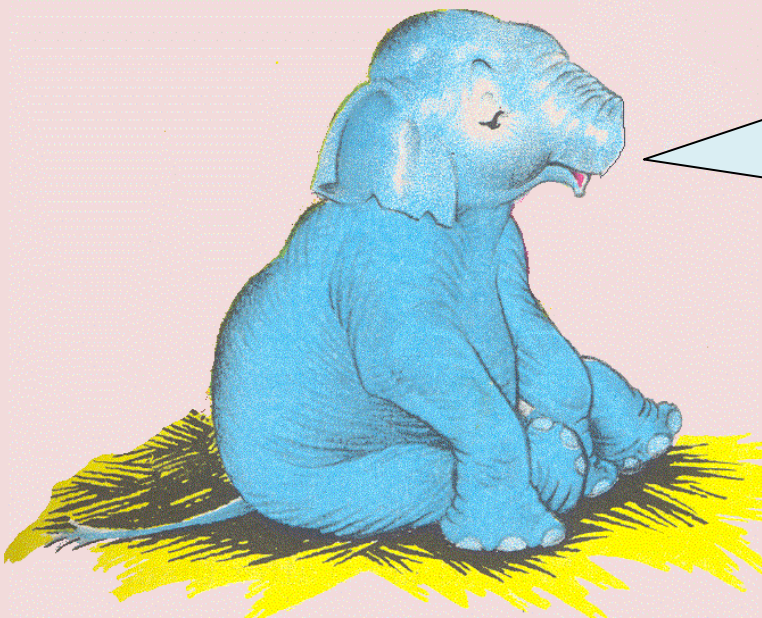
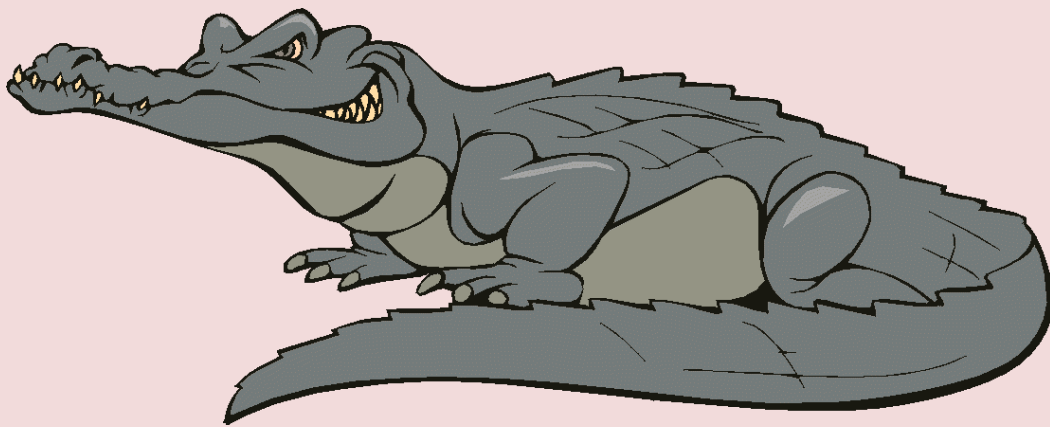


Through the jungle he went and across the grassy plain, until he met his friends and relations.

They all got ready to spank him, but Chota Hathi was too quick, he picked up some mud and dust from the ground and threw it!

What a surprise his family got. They saw how useful a long nose was.

One by one, they all decided to go and ask Shriman Mugger Mach what he has for dinner ... and one by one, they all came back with long noses ... just like all the elephants have to-day.



“What will you have for dinner, Shriman Mugger Mach ?”



