

# FABLES

## **Grade Level**

3<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **Learner Characteristics**

Mostly low socio-economic students, 50% or more ESL or Spanish speaking, many below grade level in different areas, including science, reading and language arts.

## **Learning Context**

School Library/Media Center  
Two 30 Minute sessions

## **Objective**

The students will take their previous knowledge base on fables and increase that knowledge to a deeper understanding with learning activities, stories, and a fictitious case of the Tortoise and the Hare. They will use this knowledge to write their own fable, enabling them to permanently remember the characteristics of fables.

## **Main Curriculum Tie**

*Library Media/Information Literacy (grades 3-6)*

Standard 1, Objective 2

Standard 3, Objective 1

Standard 7, Objective 2

Standard 8, Objective 3

*Language Arts (grades 3-6)*

Standard 6, Objective 1a

Standard 7, Objective 3b

## **Materials**

Interwrite board and projector  
VCR connected to interwrite board

Various books with fables in them on display – Aesop’s Fables by Michael Hague, The Tortoise and the Hare by Janet Stevens, The Aesop for Children – Scholastic by Milo Winter, Three Fox Fables by Paul Galdone, Fables by Arnold Lobel, Aesop’s Fables by Louis Untermeyer

Fable storysheet

Pencils and erasers

Ccolored pencils

VHS – Reading Rainbow

The Tortoise and the Hare

## **Characteristics of Fables:**

A fable is a story that has animals, plants, inanimate objects or forces of nature that assume human characteristics while it teaches a moral, lesson or value.

### **Lesson:**

#### **Day One**

Have the students come into the library and on the carpet.

Start out the lesson reviewing with the students what they already know about fables. Then teach and discuss, making sure they are familiar with all the different characteristics of a fable.

Use the fable books on display, read a few short preselected fables to the students. Again discuss which characteristics are used in each story.

Play the 6 minute excerpt of the "Tortoise and the Hare" from Reading Rainbow, discuss this fable and the moral to the story, or lesson learned. Review the different characteristics of a fable, making sure the students can find these characteristics from the video.

Read more short fables discussing characteristics until the end of the 30 minute period.

#### **Day Two**

Have the students come in and sit at the tables, 4-5 at each table depending on the size of the class.

Pass out a Fable storysheet and walk the students through putting on their name and class.

Discuss the Title line – they can fill it in now, or later on as they are writing their story.

Discuss the ***Moral or Lesson*** box, reminding the students that the moral is the lesson learned from the story.

Have the students write their own short fable, remind them to use the characteristics of a fable; animals, plants, inanimate objects, etc., that have human characteristics, as well as the story needs to have a moral or lesson learned at the end.

The teacher will monitor the fables as they are being written, helping the students keep on track with the correct characteristics of fables.

When the students are finished with their stories, they may illustrate their fable in the box below their story, using the colored pencils.

When students are finishing up, if time is available have several volunteer students read their fable aloud. Have the students turn in both fable worksheets, so I can see the difference between the first start, and the final copy.