

2.2 Two Fables



A fable is a very short story, usually with animal characters or even inanimate things that speak. A fable usually ends with a message or a moral. It tells you about the ways of the world and how one should behave in society. These two fables come from Aesop, the famous Greek story-teller. His stories were told and retold in many countries according to their own local conditions. Here, the story of the town mouse and country mouse is retold in the English style.

Allow the students time to list their stories. Write the titles of 25-30 of them on the blackboard. If the stories are in other languages, encourage students to translate their titles in English. Then hold a discussion on story types and the special feature of each type. Students may add other story types to these given here.

Do you like to read stories? List 5 of your favourite stories. You may list stories from any language. Now use one or more of the following story types, to describe your favourite stories.

- Folk tale
- Parable
- Horror story
- Fairy tale
- Detective story
- Mythology
- Realistic
- Anecdote
- Childhood stories
- Political
- Comedy
- Satire
- Inspiring/Inspirational/Motivational
- Comics
- Fables
- Science fiction
- Fantasy
- Historical
- Adventure
- Wit and Humour
- Romantic
- School stories
- Social
- Story with a twist
- Tragedy
- Moral stories

**Warming
up!**



TOW

Two minutes of Oral Work

Within two minutes, tell as many words as possible, related to the following :

- village
- city
- forest

THE TWO FRIENDS AND THE BEAR

Listen and answer :

- ❁ Who rushed out upon the friends?
Where were they at that time?

Note that we do not use the apostrophe in 'its' in phrases like 'its head'.

- slouched : walked away with its shoulders bent forward
- comrade : friend, companion.
- Master Bruin : Mr Bear
- desert : leave behind
- at a pinch : in an emergency

Discuss :

- ❁ Why did the other traveller lie with his face in the dust?
- ❁ Did the bear really whisper to the traveller?
- ❁ Use the phrase 'be good at something' in your own sentence.
Find the sentence in which it is used in this story.

Two friends were travelling together through a wood, when suddenly they came across a bear. The bear saw the travellers and rushed out upon them.

One of the travellers was good at climbing trees. Without waiting for his friend, he caught hold of the branch of a nearby tree, and hid himself among the leaves.

The other did not know what to do. He had heard that bears do not bother with dead animals. So he threw himself flat down upon the ground, with his face in the dust.

The bear, coming up to him, put its muzzle close to his ear, and sniffed and sniffed. But the man lay very quietly on the ground and did not even breathe. At last with a growl it shook its head and slouched off.

Then the fellow in the tree came down to his comrade, and laughing, said, "What was it that Master Bruin whispered to you?"

"He told me," said the other, "Never trust a friend who deserts you at a pinch."



THE TOWN MOUSE AND THE COUNTRY MOUSE

Once upon a time, a Town Mouse went on a visit to his cousin in the country. The Country Mouse was a simple, rustic fellow, he loved his town friend. He gave him a hearty welcome. Beans, cheese and bread, were all he had to offer, but he offered them freely. The Town Mouse rather turned up his long nose at this simple country fare, and said;

“I cannot understand, Cousin, how you can put up with this poor food! But of course you cannot expect anything better in the country. Come with me and I will show you how to live. When you see town life, you will wonder how you could ever live in the country.”

No sooner said than done. The two mice set off for the town and arrived at the big house where the Town Mouse lived in a hole.

“You will want some refreshment after our long journey,” said the polite Town Mouse, and took his friend into a grand dining room. There they found the remains of a fine feast. Soon the two mice were eating up jellies and cakes and all that was nice.



- cousin : a relative
- country : rural area, an area outside a city or town
- rustic : rural, living in a village
- fare : food

- remains : left over parts

Guess the meaning of :

- ✿ turned up his long nose
- ✿ put up with
- ✿ set off
- ✿ refreshment

Things to do :

- ✿ Describe some features of country life and town life.
- ✿ Rewrite the story using human characters and making other appropriate changes.
- ✿ What is the meaning of ‘only’?

✿ What does the country mouse mean by ‘only!’?

- huge : very big
- mastiffs : big dogs of a special breed.

Discuss :

✿ What is better – country life or town life? Why?

Suddenly they heard growling and barking.

“What is that?” said the Country Mouse.

“It is only the dogs of the house,” answered the other.

“Only!” said the Country Mouse. “I do not like that music at my dinner!”

Just at that moment the door flew open, in came two huge mastiffs, and the two mice had to scamper down and run off.

“Good-bye, Cousin,” said the Country Mouse.

“What! Going so soon?” said the other.

“Yes,” he replied; “Better beans and bread in peace than cakes and jellies in fear.”

- Adapted from Aesop’s Fables.



ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. This story has two parts. Write what happened in each part.

In the country

- The Town Mouse went to visit his country cousin.
-
- The Town Mouse did not like the food.

At the big house

-
- The Town Mouse offered his cousin jellies and cakes.
-

2. Translate the following into your mother tongue :

- I do not like that music at my dinner!
- Better beans and bread in peace than cakes and jellies in fear.

3. Try to write more sentences on the pattern of ‘Better beans and bread in peace than cakes and jellies in fear.’ Example : Better late than never.

4. Write the moral of the story in your mother tongue using your own words.

Language Study

You have learnt in Std VI that verbs (action words) have different forms to show the time at which the action happens –

Past - He **lived** in a hole.

Present - He **lives** in a hole.

Future - He **will live** in a hole.

You also know that the past tense forms usually have ‘-d’, ‘-ed’, or ‘-ied’ at the end.

It will come out of the hole.



It comes out of the hole.



It came out of the hole and lost its life!



Some present tense forms (third person singular) have -s, -es or -ies at the end. Present tense forms used with I, we, you and they do not have ‘-s’, ‘-es’ or ‘-ies’ after them, there is no change in them.

The future is indicated by ‘will’ and ‘shall’.

- * Use any 5 of the following verbs in your own sentences to show the past, present and future tenses –
like, love, answer, scamper, wait, sniff, laugh.

Past	Present	Future
..... liked	 like / likes	 will like
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		

Last year I wrote poems.

Now I write short stories.

In future, I will write novels.



- * Can you complete the following table? Note that these verbs have ‘irregular’ past tense forms.

Past	Present	Future
went	go/goes	will go
.....	come/comes	
.....	eat/eats	
gave		
flew	fly / flies	

- Keep adding more verbs to this table of tenses.

5. Activity: Live English !

(1) Read this menu card carefully and answer the questions given below the card.



Regular Thali 160/-
[Plain rice, Masala Bhat, Chapati, Jawar/Bajra Bhakri, Dal, 2 Vegetables, Kadhi, Koshimbir, Papad, Bhaji (Fritters), Dahi]

Delux Thali 230/-
[Soup, Jeera rice, Masala Bhat, Chapati, Jawar/Bajra/Rice, Bhakri, 3 Vegetables, Dal, Solkadhi, Bhaji/Fritters, Alu Wadi, Kothimbir Wadi/Surali Wadi, Koshimbir, Papad, dahi, 1 sweet]

Sweets

Shrikhand/Amrakhand	30/-
Basundi	40/-
Gulab jamun	30/-
Aamras (Seasonal)	40/-
Puran Poli	30/-
Ukadiche Modak	40/-

Marathi Zatka

Zunka Bhakar with Thecha	90/-
Matki Usal	40/-
Bharali Wangi	40/-
Butter	10/-
Dahi Wati	20/-

Upwas Special

Sabudana Wada	50/-
Sabudana Khichadi	40/-
Upwas Kachori	50/-

- Guess the meaning of 'menu card'.
- What is the purpose of a 'menu card'?
- Is this 'menu card' in English or Marathi? Discuss.
- List at least 5 English and 5 Marathi words from the card separately.

(2) Imagine that you have opened a hotel in the following places.

- Dahiwadi • Nagpur • Bengaluru • London

(a) Which language/languages and script/scripts will you use on your card at each of these places?

(b) You want to appoint staff in your hotel. What languages do they need to know?

(c) Design a menu card for your hotel, offering food items of your choice. Invent fancy names for your dishes.

(3) Use the menu card given on page 42 and prepare dialogues for the following situations.

Hotel Staff welcomes the customers and tells them about the specialities of the hotel.

Hotel Staff : Good evening Sir.
Can I help you?

Customer : We need a table for six.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

An Australian family talks to the hotel manager about the items on the menu card.

Hotel Manager : A very good morning, Madam.

Australian Customer : Good morning.
Can you tell us something about the items here?
What is ?

Hotel Manager : It's a kind of

.....
.....
.....

A Maharashtrian family discusses what they want to order. The family includes Grandpa, Grandma, Great Grandma, Father, Mother, Uncle, Aunt and four children.

Mother : What would you like to have, Aai?

Great Grandma : Something soft for me.

Grandma : And not very spicy. What about you, Son?

Father :
.....

