



ABOUT THIS PERFORMANCE GUIDE

Hello Educators! Welcome to your Performance Guide! This resource is crafted to support you and your students at every step of our upcoming visit—before, during, and after the performance. Inside, you'll find key concepts introduced in the show, insights into what to expect, and an engaging activity sheet designed to deepen students' understanding of Aesop's timeless fables.

For additional resources, including details on how our production aligns with the NYS Learning Standards, please visit:

www.TheREVTheatre.com/aesop.

PLAY SYNOPSIS

Aesop's famous fables come to life in this upbeat performance. Tidbits of Aesop's life and the traditions of Greek Theatre, as well as literary devices such as personification and rhyme, are interwoven among such well known tales as "The Milkmaid and Her Pail," "The Lion and the Mouse" and, of course, "The Tortoise and the Hare." Our actors use rap, rhyme, and masks to give these famous fables a modern twist. Students will be entertained as they learn the moral for each tale.

ABOUT AESOP

Aesop was an Ancient Greek story teller known for authoring a number of fables now collectively called *Aesop's Fables*. There is very little information about his life as some speculate if he even existed. Several ancient sources such as Aristotle, Herodotus, and Plutarch mention details of Aesop's life in their writings, estimating he was born around 620 BC. It is said that he was a slave who was eventually set free by his third owner because of his wit and wisdom.

The fables credited to Aesop were told and passed down by word of mouth through the oral tradition. It was not until about 200 years after Aesop's presumed death that any of his fables were published. The stories have remained very popular throughout the centuries as clever teaching tools. *Aesop's Fables* mostly center around animal characters and highlight both positive and negative human behaviors through the animals.

NOTE: Carefully tear out the insert at the seam to release our new Student Activity Sheet.


TEAR HERE

AESOP'S FABLES: ON STAGE! 1ST GRADE PERFORMANCE

HOW TO WATCH THE SHOW

- **Listen closely:** The animals in the fables and people in the parables have important things to say!
- **Watch carefully:** Look for the lesson in each story. What are the characters trying to teach us?
- **Be respectful:** Let's be quiet so everyone can hear the actors on stage.
- **Clap and laugh:** If you see something funny or exciting, it's okay to clap or laugh! The actors love it when you enjoy the show.

AESOP'S MATCHING GAME

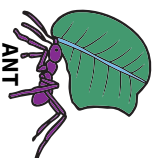
During the performance, try to remember which characters belong together in each fable and parable. At the end of the show, see what you remember by drawing a line to the characters that match!



DOG



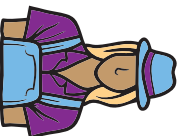
GRAPES



ANT



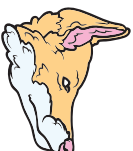
PAIL



MILKMAID



GRASSHOPPER



FOX



BONE

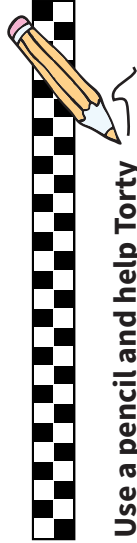
AESOP'S FABLES: ON STAGE!

1ST GRADE PERFORMANCE

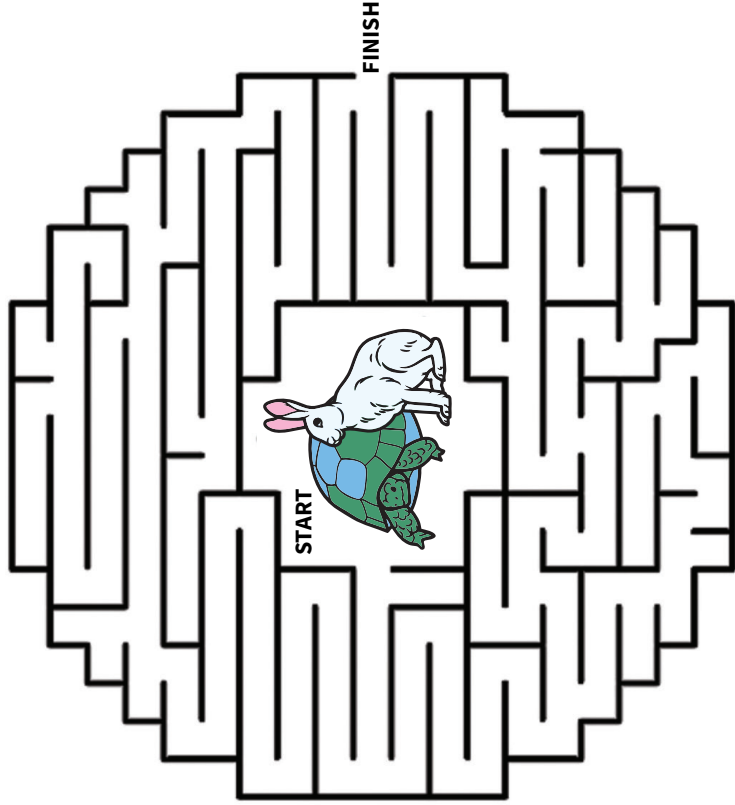
HEY FIRST GRADERS!

We are so excited to share this special performance all about Aesop and his fables and parables! You're about to see some fun stories with animals that can talk, silly situations, and important lessons. Aesop was a storyteller from a long, long time ago, and his fables have been shared with people all over the world.

One of Aesop's fables that you will learn about in the performance is "The Tortoise and the Hare."



Use a pencil and help Torty and the Hare escape the maze by getting to the FINISH!



BEFORE THE SHOW



- You will learn the difference between a fable and a parable!
- Imagine what you think the set, costumes and props will look like for the show. How do you think the stories will be brought to life on stage?



AESOP'S WORD HUNT

Find the names of Aesop's favorite animal characters listed in the word bank below.

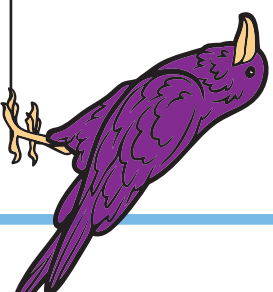
- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| ANT | HARE |
| CROW | LION |
| FOX | MOUSE |
| GOOSE | TORTOISE |
| GRASSHOPPER | DOG |

K W G M E L Z K F M D N P J Z
V T P W M E X J W B O L M A I
T O J L K G O O N I G Q S T I
R R I I K L O N J Z Y U A S E I
H T T O B Y X F O X C R O W U D
I O K N Y A S S H O P P E R O
F I A G C G U Z I H A R E E G
T S H C I E S R T Q V M U U V
A E D U I E S R T Q V M U U V
T Z I C N Z C K A G A R C Q A

AFTER THE SHOW

When the performance is over, think about what you've learned. Here are some questions to help you remember the stories:

Which fable was your favorite? Why?



What lesson do you remember most?

Did the costumes, set and props look like how you imagined they would? What were the differences?

Don't forget to send us a letter or picture! We love hearing about your experience

with our play. Your teachers can help you get those in the mail to us!



ELEMENTS OF GREEK THEATRE IN OUR PRODUCTION

Several elements of our production of *Aesop's Fables: On Stage* are taken directly from Ancient Greek theatre. First, some sections of dialogue are written in rhyming verse, which is how many Greek plays were written. Our production also borrows the Greek convention of using masks to indicate character. While we will only use masks in one scene, the use of costumes is also derived from the Greeks. Our play also briefly uses a chorus, which, in the Greek theatre, was a group of performers who collectively commented on the action of the play.

Finally, the Greek theatre used a building called a skene, where the performers would change costumes out of sight of the audience. It was also used as scenery. The backdrop used in our performance will serve as our skene as it helps create setting and hides our actors as they execute their many costume changes.

FABLES AND PARABLES IN AESOP'S FABLES: ON STAGE AND THEIR MORALS

Our play brings to life nine of Aesop's best-known tales, with only three talented actors transforming into all the characters! Below, you'll find the featured fables along with their timeless morals. To help your students prepare for our visit, discuss each moral and encourage them to connect these lessons to real-life situations they've experienced. This activity will enrich their understanding and make the performance even more meaningful!

The Woodcutter and His Axe | "Honesty is the best policy."

The Goose and the Golden Eggs | "Never kill the goose that lays the golden eggs."

The Fox and the Grapes | "It is easy to despise what you cannot get."

The Dog and the Bone | "It is foolish to be greedy."

The Tortoise and the Hare | "Slow and steady wins the race."

The Milkmaid and Her Pail | "Don't count your chickens before they hatch."

The Lion and the Mouse | "Kindness is never wasted."

The Ant and the Grasshopper | "Don't put off to tomorrow what you should do today."

The Fox and the Crow | "When strangers seem to be too kind, be careful what they have in mind"

AESOP'S FABLES: ON STAGE!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

AND YOUR STUDENTS!

The input of **everyone** who experiences
The REV is important to us as we plan
for future programming.

*Scan the QR code for a digital version of
the teacher survey and student surveys!*



SCAN ME

LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES?

To access the NYS Learning Standards and additional
materials for this production, go to our website at
TheREVTheatre.com/aesop.

Additionally, our programming is available digitally.
To access, contact

**Lauren Bice, Educational Theatre Manager at
revtour@TheREVTheatre.com or 315-255-1305.**

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