

This preview is an excerpt only.

All Scriptmore script previews can’t be used for performance or distributed in any way. No part may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means, now known or yet to be invented. This script is fully protected under copyright law and all rights are retained by the author.

To read this script in its entirety, purchase a copy from scriptmore.com.

A FESTIVAL OF FABLES BY AESOP

scriptmore

Scriptmore.com

A FESTIVAL OF FABLES BY AESOP

written by

Jennifer Sneed

©2025 Jennifer Sneed | Licensed and Distributed by Scriptmore

Synopsis

Who was Aesop, anyway, and why should we care? So begins the lecture of a pompous professor who attempts to tell us all about Aesop's fables, only to be interrupted by actors intent on showing instead of telling what the fables are all about.

Cast of Characters

PROFESSOR	a know-it-all teacher
HARE	a confident rabbit
TORTOISE	a persistent plodder
GRASSHOPPER	a lazy fellow
ANT	a dedicated worker
CROW	a vain lover of cheese
FOX	a sly lover of cheese

Director Notes

SET

All action takes place on an empty stage.

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: The scene opens on an empty stage.

At Rise: The PROFESSOR enters down stage left and stands.

PROFESSOR *(pompously)*

The subject of my lecture today is "Who Was Aesop, Anyway, and Why Should We Care?" Now, the writer Aesop is mentioned in many ancient Greek texts, written by writers with names that are very funny and difficult to pronounce, but the truth is that nobody quite knows who Aesop was. It also seems that nobody quite knows if he wrote all of the fables that show up in books clearly titled "Aesop's Fables." But the important thing to know here is that these stories can teach us lessons because they have a moral. Now, a moral is…

(HARE comes jogging in from stage right and stops beside the PROFESSOR. As he talks to the PROFESSOR he continues to stretch, jog in place, etc.)

HARE

Yeah, yeah…we know! A moral is a lesson, especially one concerning what is right or prudent, that can be derived from a story. But why are you boring the audience? Is this school or a play?

PROFESSOR

Why, a play, of course. However, I think the audience will enjoy it more if they have the necessary background to understand…

HARE

Nah, Professor. Let's get on with the action. First up, me! The Hare! Fastest critter in all of Greece. Get out of the way, Professor, because I need room to stretch my legs.

(PROFESSOR exits stage left, in a huff. TORTOISE enters slowly, stage right.)

TORTOISE

Fastest critter in all Greece, huh? Are you so sure about that?

HARE

Yessirree! I'm the fastest critter you've ever seen.

TORTOISE

I wouldn't be so sure about that. I think I've seen faster.

HARE

Hah! That's impossible. You know why? Because there is no critter faster.

TORTOISE

I'd bet you there is. I'd bet that I'm faster than you.

HARE *(laughs)*

Go on now. A pokey little tortoise who carries his house on his back faster than a sleek running machine like me. You're on Mister. Twice around the mountain and back to this line. You'll be eating my dust.

(HARE and TORTOISE line up to race.)

HARE

On your mark, get set, go!

(HARE dashes off stage right while the TORTOISE slowly heads in the same direction. Once the TORTOISE exits, the HARE enters stage left, stops and looks behind him.)

HARE

Hah! There's no sign of that tortoise, just as I thought. He's so slow, I'd bet I have time to take a rest in the sun and STILL beat him. Silly tortoise, thinking he can beat me.

(HARE settles down and soon falls asleep. TORTOISE enters from stage left and stops to look at the HARE.)

TORTOISE *(laughs slowly)*

Ha. Ha. Ha. Mr. Hare was so sure he'd win, but it looks like I'll be having the last laugh.

(TORTOISE slowly jogs across the stage and exits stage right. HARE stirs, wakes, stretches, and looks behind him.)

HARE

Hah! Still no sign of Tortoise. I've got this race in the bag. Now, it's off to victory.

(HARE speeds off stage right, while TORTOISE enters stage left, with his arms raised in victory.)

TORTOISE

Hail to the conquering hero! That's me! Won't that Hare be surprised? I'll just sit back and wait for him.

(HARE jogs on stage left, sees TORTOISE and stops.)

HARE *(surprised)*

You? How did you get here? How did you…you…how did you beat…ME?

TORTOISE

Well, you know what they say…

(PROFESSOR enters.)

These pages have been removed
for the preview.

To read this script in its entirety,
purchase a copy from
scriptmore.com.

ANT

You know what they say, Grasshopper, "A fool who sings away the summer, dances a hungry jig in winter."

GRASSHOPPER

They may say it, Mr. Ant, but it doesn't help me in my current circumstances. I've learned my lesson. Please help me out.

ANT

Hmmm. You do look sorry. I'll tell you what. I'll invite you in, but next summer, you've got to help me get ready because…

ANT AND GRASSHOPPER

Winter's coming.

(They shake hands and exit stage left. PROFESSOR enters stage right and crosses to center stage.)

PROFESSOR *(pompously)*

And the moral of the fable of the Ant and the Grasshopper is that it is very wise to do your work before you play, so that you can be ready for hard times, like winter. Brrr. Now, Aesop's fables warn about many things, overconfidence, laziness, and in this next one, about…

(CROW flaps on stage left and perches)

PROFESSOR

Why look, it's a crow. And what do you have in your mouth, Crow?

(CROW shakes its head to show it can't talk.)

PROFESSOR

It appears that the crow has a piece of cheese in its beak and can't speak. This could be interesting. Let's see what unfolds.

(FOX enters stage left, notices the cheese, talks to CROW.)

FOX

Hey, beautiful! What's a good-looking bird like you doing out in the forest?

PROFESSOR

(to audience)

The crow wanted to thank the fox for the compliment and tell him she was out in the forest to eat a piece of cheese, but she merely blushed and tilted her head.

(CROW tilts it's head.)

FOX

Really, you're the most gorgeous bird I've ever seen.

PROFESSOR

The crow wanted to say, "Oh, go on, really?"! Really?" but instead she just giggled and batted her eyes.

(CROW giggles and bats its eyes.)

FOX

Honestly! The sparkle of your eyes. The gleam of your feathers. Wow! If only you could sing as beautifully as you look – I'd say you were the queen of birds.

CROW

(sings – it's not beautiful)

Caw! Caw! Caw!

FOX

(snatches up the cheese)

Got it!

(FOX gleefully exits stage right.)

PROFESSOR

And so, the fox tricked the crow and trotted away, eating the cheese. Which brings us to the moral of this fable…

CROW *(sadly)*

Never trust a flatterer!

(CROW exits stage left, flapping sadly.)

PROFESSOR

And so you see, audience, we can learn many things from Aesop's fables, even though we're not sure who he was, or indeed if he was many writers, the only thing we can be sure of is…

(HARE jogs on stage and gently pushes the PROFESSOR off.)

HARE

Come on, Professor. Don't forget the moral, "Quality is better than quantity."

(The End)



Like what you read?

To buy this script in its entirety or check out other scripts, visit scriptmore.com.