

Hare and Hyena

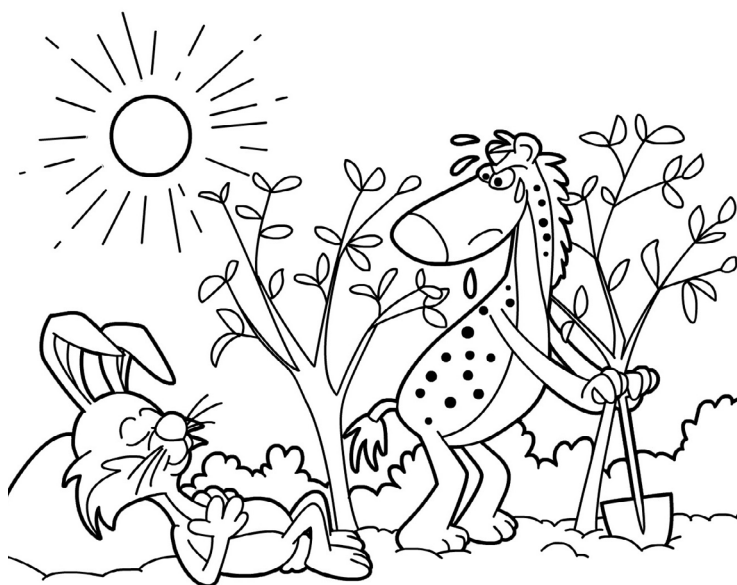
Name: _____

Read a fable:

A fable is usually about animals which take on human characteristics. (This is called Personification) They can also talk. There is normally a problem which has a solution. The aim of a fable is to teach a moral or a lesson. Before you read this fable, skim through this page and the pictures and see what you think the fable is about. Tell a friend.



Once upon a time there lived a Hare and Hyena and the two were great neighbours. Hyena used to own a huge farm which he loved dearly, but it was too much work for him to plant everything by himself. One day, he went to see Hare and asked if he could help him with his farm. In return he would pay Hare with some nuts from his farm.



Hare used to sit all day doing nothing and when Hyena came home after work, Hare would always ask him for nuts from his farm. But Hyena didn't like this very much. So one day Hyena thought to himself, "It's so hard to work all day by myself. Maybe Hare could help me and in return he can get some nuts that he has actually worked for". Hare agreed to his terms and they shook hands on it because he thought it was a good deal.

The two worked very well together. Hare would dig and plant, and Hyena would help and sing along as they went. Hyena was very happy because he was able to plant a lot more than before. So one afternoon when the crops had grown, he decided to tell Hyena that he wanted more nuts for all the hard work he did.

"Look at all this. I planted everything and I deserve to be paid more," Hare said, but



Hyena wasn't having any of it.

"No, we did this together so I can't pay you more. Don't forget whose farm this is," he shouted. But Hare was not very happy about this and walked away angry. Hyena went home and thought to himself, "How am I going to solve this because Hare is a very hard worker indeed and I can't afford to lose him."

So Hyena called Hare for a meeting and asked him, "How many more nuts do you want?"

Hare was very clever so he thought

about it for a while and then said, "Mmmmm do you know that you would make me happy if you gave me half your farm." Hyena thought for a moment. "Fine you can have half only if you keep working as hard as you have been doing."

Hare smiled and knew he had made a great deal. So he agreed to this.

But, as time went by, Hare stopped working hard and instead he would sit and sing all day. Hyena worked hard and, so much so, that he was beginning to dislike Hare. He wondered why he even agreed to the terms in the first place. One day Hyena came up with a brilliant idea to solve both their problems.

He told Hare, "If you don't help with the chores then get off my farm." Hare refused to get off because he was used to the free food that he was getting. But Hyena was fed up and chased him away and warned him, "If I ever catch you on my farm again, I will eat you."

That is why to this day, the Hyena is always chasing the Hare when he sees him near his land. And Hare is always hiding in the fields trying to steal food from farms.



(This story which is called 'Hare and Hyena' comes from The African Storybook website and was written by Phoebe Sibomana under a Creative Commons license. <http://www.africanstorybook.org/asp/book/read/8179>)

Answer these questions in your class workbook

1. What is the main idea in this fable?
2. How would you describe the moral of this fable?
3. What is the setting and who are the characters in this fable?
4. Can you retell the plot of this story in 5 sentences?
5. Think of a time when you made a promise but it was hard to keep. Did you keep the promise? Write a paragraph about it.
6. Do you think Hyena's solution to the problem was the right one? Give a reason for your answer.
7. What type of foodstuff did hare like eating in this story?