

What is a Fable?

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3rd Grade Nonfiction

A fable is a story. A wise **author** would write the fable to tell a lesson. Long ago, people wrote many fables. They wrote them to help other people learn. For example, the tortoise and the hare is a fable. That fable tells people it is not wise to show off. It is wise to work hard.

Most fables have animals in them. The animals talk. Of course in real life an animal can't talk. But in the fables they do. The animals often do foolish things. For example, in one fable there is a crow. It wants to get a delicious fruit. It takes it from a garden. And it gets it. But then as the crow **soars**, it shows off. It opens its mouth to shout, "Look, I got the best fruit." But of course the crow loses the fruit. It falls out of its mouth because it opened its mouth to shout.

Fables have a moral. A moral is the lesson it teaches. The fable about the crow makes an important **point**. It tells you that people should be careful. It tells you that the crow was foolish.

There is another fable about the ant and the grasshopper. The grasshopper played all summer while the ant **toiled**. The ant got ready for winter. The ant was a hard worker. It dug a hole to stay in during winter. It carried food to that hole. When winter came, the ant was able to live. The grasshopper did not have any food. It had no place to stay. Winter was a great **challenge** for the grasshopper. It asked the ant for help. The ant was generous. The ant did help the grasshopper. The grasshopper learned a lesson. So did everyone who read the fable.

Infer Meaning of Word from Context – Nonfiction

Questions developed for Chicago Public Schools by CUE, 2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What does **author** mean in the passage?

- a. book
- b. reader
- c. writer
- d. person

3. What does **point** mean in the passage?

- a. sharp
- b. lesson
- c. fable
- d. surprise

2. What does **soar** mean in the passage?

- a. hurt
- b. learn
- c. fly
- d. eat

4. What does **toiled** mean in the passage?

- a. worked
- b. ate
- c. helped
- d. built

5. Write your own answer to this question. What does **challenge** mean in the passage?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	c	b	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
Something difficult.