Who Was Aesop?

Aesop's fables are known and loved around the world. Yet very little is known about the man who told these stories. Aesop is thought to have been a slave in ancient Greece. He was born more than 2,500 years ago, in about 620 BCE. Aesop was a wise man. His master admired him for his wisdom. At that time, a master could free a slave whom he admired.

Aesop told stories because, in those days, very few people could read or write. When stories were good and well told, people would remember them and retell them. This is how they were passed along.

Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes

Combine information from a text with what is already known to build additional meaning.

How do you know Aesop was freed?

The Tortoise and the Hare

Tortoise and Hare were friends who lived near a very big hill. Hare, with his long, strong legs, could run up the hill and then down again in sixty seconds. Tortoise, with his short, stubby legs, could not move very fast. It took him a very long time to get anywhere.

Hare always teased Tortoise about how slowly he walked. Tortoise was sick and tired of Hare's teasing, so one day he challenged Hare to a race.

"This is a joke! You've got to be kidding," Hare said with a laugh. "I can run circles around you. You'll never beat me!"

"We'll see," said Tortoise.

The tortoise won the race.

Which animal should win the race?

The Ant and the Grasshopper

One summer day, a grasshopper was hopping around, chirping and singing to his heart's content. An ant passed by, carrying a long kernel of wheat to his nest.

"Why not come and play with me instead of working so hard?" asked the grasshopper.

"I'm collecting food now," said the ant. "I recommend that you do the same."

"Why bother?" asked the grasshopper. "We have plenty of food at the moment!"

"Suit yourself," replied the ant. The ant continued his work and the grasshopper leaped merrily away.

When winter came, the grasshopper had no food and was very hungry. I think I'll pay a visit to that little ant, he thought. He probably has plenty of food.

When the ant saw the starving grasshopper, he felt sorry for him. "I will help you this time," he said, "but next summer, you had better chirp, sing, and work!"

Text 1

Who Was Aesop?

Text 2

The Lion and the Mouse

Text 3

The Tortoise and the Hare

Text 4

The Ant and the Grasshopper

Text 5

The Sick Lion

Text 6

Ready, Set, Ducky!
Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes

**Text 3: The Tortoise and the Hare**

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**BEFORE READING**

**Skill Focus**
Ask a volunteer to define drawing conclusions/predicting outcomes. *(combining information from a text with what you already know to build additional meaning)*

**Background Knowledge**
Invite students to discuss with a partner what they remember about “The Lion and the Mouse.” Tell them that they are going to read another of Aesop’s fables. Then have students predict whether the characters in this fable will be people or animals *(animals)* and whether or not this fable will try to teach a lesson.

**Text Structure and Purpose**
Have students open their books to page 54. Encourage them to predict how this fable may be similar to “The Lion and the Mouse.” *(Beginning tells about a problem. There is action and dialogue between the animal characters in the middle. A character learns a lesson at the end.)*

**Text Features**
Have students read the title and focus question silently, then ask a volunteer to read them aloud. Direct them to look at the illustrations on pages 54–56 and invite them to discuss with a partner what they show. Ask: “What is happening in the picture on page 55? Why do you think Hare is sleeping while Tortoise is walking?” Then ask: “What do you think happened on page 56? How did Tortoise get ahead of Hare?”

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80  Unit 4  Drawing Conclusions/Predicting Outcomes
Hare and Tortoise lined up and the race began! Hare ran like the wind and was soon out of sight. Tortoise plodded along slowly and steadily. Hare had run right over the top of the hill before Tortoise had even reached it.

After a while, Hare stopped to wait for Tortoise to come along. He began to feel sleepy. “Tortoise is so slow,” he said to himself. “I’ll just take a quick nap in this soft grass, and I’ll finish the race later.” He yawned and closed his eyes.

Hare’s personality. *(Hare is overconfident and not very nice.)* Ask: “If someone said these sorts of things to you with a laugh, how would you feel?” *(annoyed, hurt, upset)*
Rereading
Have students reread the focus questions silently, then ask volunteers to read them aloud. Direct them to underline elements in the text that help them draw conclusions and predict outcomes to answer these questions. Ask volunteers to suggest answers. (Page 54: Answers will vary. Have students support their position; Page 56: He kept moving while Hare took a nap. Hare thought he couldn’t be beaten, but he was wrong.)

Cooperative Learning
Give students the opportunity to work in small groups, or with you, to clarify any other words, phrases, and sentences. Then invite the groups to share their ideas with the class.

Next, students can reinforce their understanding of drawing conclusions and predicting outcomes with the following activity:

- Have each group focus on one page of the text to answer the question: Who will win the race?
- Working together, have them find the details from that page that support their answer.
- Then have reporters from each group come to the front of the room to share these details with the class.

Text 3: The Tortoise and the Hare

Meanwhile, Tortoise trudged on. He didn’t need to stop for a rest. He eventually passed Hare, who was sound asleep in the grass. Tortoise smiled and walked quietly by.

After Hare had been asleep for quite a long time, he awoke with a start. Hare leaped to his feet and started running with all his strength toward the finish line. But it was too late! The race was over. Tortoise had won!

Hare felt very silly and was ashamed of himself. Imagine that, he thought, a hare being beaten by a tortoise!
Reread for Fluency
Ask students to think about how Hare might talk *(quickly, with self-confidence)* and how Tortoise might talk. *(slowly, carefully)* Have students reread the text with a partner, with one reading Hare’s dialogue like Hare and the other reading Tortoise’s dialogue like Tortoise. They can read the non-dialogue text together. Have them monitor each other for accuracy and appropriate expression.

Graphic Organizers and Question Answering
Ask students to compare the first Predict Outcomes question with the Lesson of the Story question. Ask: “How do you think Tortoise felt at the end of the race? How do you think Hare felt?”

Summarizing
Have students work in small groups to create an oral summary of the text and have a volunteer from each group share their summary with the class.

Find ELL support for summarizing below.

ELL Support
To help students summarize the story, work with them to create a simple story map. First record characters and setting. Then work through story events in order: The animals race; Hare gets ahead; Hare stops to rest and falls asleep; Tortoise passes Hare to win the race! Write each event in a separate box with arrows in between. Number each box in order.
Text Connections

Explore the following questions and activities with the whole class or in small groups, or assign them for independent work. Review Texts 1 through 5 with students, including the activity pages. Tell students they may need to refer back to these pages.

1. Why do you think Aesop wrote about animals instead of people in his fables?

2. What is the moral of each of the fables you read?

3. Which one of the fables do you think teaches the most important lesson? Why do you think so?

4. Each fable has two main characters. Which character in each fable do you like best? Why?

5. Research more of Aesop's fables in the school library or on the Internet. Print out or write down the ones you like. Share with the class your favorite stories and their morals.

6. Create an original fable. First decide what lesson you would like the fable to teach. Then decide on and use a graphic organizer to plan the characters, setting, problem, solution, and other story events. Illustrate the different events of the story, write underneath the illustration what is happening, and put the pages together in sequence to form a book for the class library. Be sure to include a cover and a title page.

7. Reread one of the fables from this unit until you know it well and can tell the story without looking at the text. Retell the story aloud to the class.
Tortoise and Hare were friends who lived near a very big hill. Hare, with his long, strong legs, could run up the hill and then down again in sixty seconds. Tortoise, with his short, stubby legs, could not move very fast. It took him a very long time to get anywhere.

Hare always teased Tortoise about how slowly he walked. Tortoise was sick and tired of Hare’s teasing, so one day he challenged Hare to a race.

“This is a joke! You’ve got to be kidding,” Hare said with a laugh. “I can run circles around you. You’ll never beat me!”

“We’ll see,” said Tortoise.
Hare and Tortoise lined up and the race began! Hare ran like the wind and was soon out of sight. Tortoise plodded along slowly and steadily. Hare had run right over the top of the hill before Tortoise had even reached it.

After a while, Hare stopped to wait for Tortoise to come along. He began to feel sleepy. “Tortoise is so slow,” he said to himself. “I’ll just take a quick nap in this soft grass, and I’ll finish the race later.” He yawned and closed his eyes.
Meanwhile, Tortoise trudged on. He didn’t need to stop for a rest. He eventually passed Hare, who was sound asleep in the grass. Tortoise smiled and walked quietly by.

After Hare had been asleep for quite a long time, he awoke with a start. Hare leaped to his feet and started running with all his strength toward the finish line. But it was too late! The race was over. Tortoise had won!

Hare felt very silly and was ashamed of himself. *Imagine that,* he thought, *a hare being beaten by a tortoise!*

**Why did Tortoise beat Hare?**
Practice the Skill

Predict Outcomes

1. How would Tortoise have described his day?
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

2. What might Tortoise say to Hare after winning the race?
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

Lesson of the Story

If Hare said, “I’ve learned an important lesson today,” what would that lesson be?
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

Vocabulary

What does “ran like the wind” mean?
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________