Flucie

17 STORIES

Short Moral Stories in English

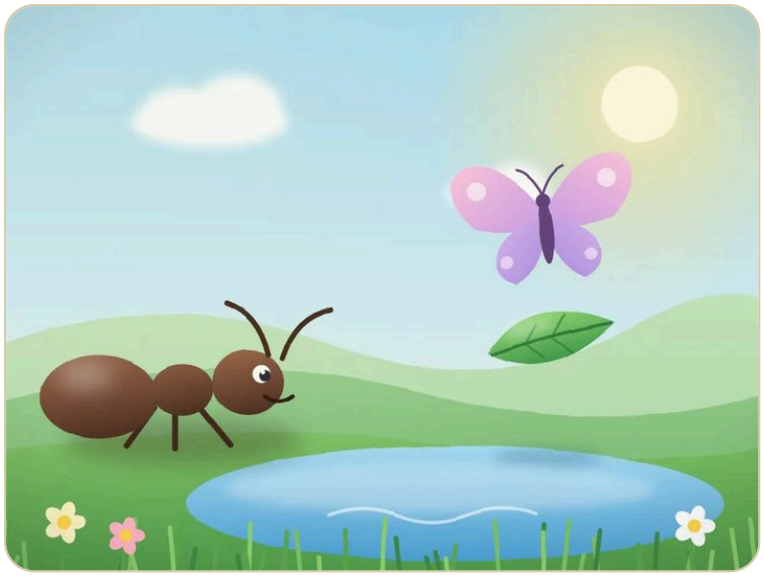
Pictures • Morals • Questions to talk about



Read one story a day, together. A grown-up reads aloud; confident readers can read alone.

Name: _____

The Ant and the Little Leaf



A tiny ant was walking home when she came to a puddle. It was far too wide to cross. She tried to go around it, but the puddle went on and on.

A butterfly saw the little ant sitting at the edge. “Oh dear,” said the butterfly. “I will help.”

She flew off and came back with a little green leaf. She placed it gently on the water.

The leaf became a boat. The ant stepped on, and the water carried her across the puddle, safe and dry.

“Thank you, kind butterfly!” said the ant. The butterfly smiled. It was only a small leaf, but it was a big help.

THE LESSON Kindness makes a big difference.

Key words: **kind** · caring about other people | **help** · to make something easier for someone

Talk about it

1. Why could the ant not cross the puddle by herself?

2. What did the butterfly use to help?

3. Can you think of a small way to be kind to someone today?

The Little Mouse and the Last Berry



Mimi the little mouse was very hungry. She looked and looked, and at last she found one shiny red berry.

“Yum!” said Mimi. She lifted the berry to her mouth.

Then she heard a small sound. Peep, peep. A baby bird was sitting nearby, crying. The baby bird was hungry too.

Mimi looked at the berry. She looked at the baby bird. Her tummy rumbled. But she knew what she wanted to do.

“Here,” said Mimi. “Let us share.” She broke the berry in two and gave half to the baby bird.

They ate together, and both of them felt better than before. Sharing made the little berry feel like a feast.

THE LESSON **Sharing feels better than keeping.**

Key words: **share** · to give part of what you have to someone else **hungry** · wanting food

Talk about it

1. What did Mimi find, and what did she decide to do with it?

2. How do you think the baby bird felt after Mimi shared?

3. Can you think of a time you shared something you really wanted?

The Rainbow Nobody Owned



Tara sat on the grass with her paper and her crayons. She drew a big, bright rainbow, all by herself. She was very proud of it.

Then she noticed another child standing a little way off. The child was watching her draw. He had no paper and no crayons.

Tara looked at her rainbow. It was hers. She had made it. But the child looked so alone.

“Would you like a colour?” asked Tara. She held out a crayon.

The child smiled and took it. Together they added more and more colour, until the rainbow was the brightest one in the whole park.

It was not Tara’s rainbow any more, and it was not his either. It belonged to everyone who looked at it.

THE LESSON **A rainbow belongs to everyone who looks at it.**

Key words: **rainbow** · a curve of many colours in the sky, or in a drawing

share · to let someone else join in or have a turn

Talk about it

1. What did Tara notice while she was drawing?

2. How do you think the other child felt when Tara offered a colour?

3. What is something you made that you could share with someone?

The Little Star That Lied



Twinkle was a little star who lived high in the night sky. One evening she made a mistake. She did not mean to, but it was a real mistake.

Twinkle was frightened. “What if everyone is cross with me?” she thought. When someone asked what had happened, she said, “It was not me.”

That was not true. Twinkle knew it, and her light felt heavy and dim.

Later that night, a group of fireflies lost their way in the dark. “We need a bright light!” they called.

Twinkle wanted to help, but she could not shine her best while she was hiding the truth.

So she took a deep breath. “It was me,” she said. “I am sorry.” And her light grew bright again. She shone down and the fireflies found their way home.

Telling the truth had felt scary. But owning up was its own kind of brave.

THE LESSON Telling the truth takes courage.

Key words: **truth** · what really happened | **brave** · doing the right thing even when you feel scared

Talk about it

1. Why do you think Twinkle was afraid to tell anyone?

2. What changed her mind?

3. Can you think of a time telling the truth felt hard?

The Cloud Who Refused to Share



A cloud drifted across the sky, growing bigger and heavier. Inside it was a lot of rain. “This rain is mine,” said the cloud. “I will keep every single drop.”

Down below, the fields grew dry. The grass turned brown and the little flowers began to droop. “Please,” they whispered, “we are so thirsty.”

But the cloud held on tight. It felt full and heavy, and it was not a happy feeling at all.

Days went by. The flowers drooped lower. The cloud felt more and more tired from holding everything in.

At last the cloud let go. Pitter-patter, pitter-patter, the rain began to fall.

The flowers lifted their heads. The grass turned green. The whole field came back to life. And the cloud felt light and happy, floating free.

THE LESSON **What you hold on to does nobody any good, including you.**

Key words: **rain** · water that falls from clouds **share** · to give some of what you have to others

Talk about it

1. What was the cloud holding on to?

2. What happened to the flowers while it waited?

3. How did things change once the cloud shared?

The Tiny Crab's Big Idea



A starfish had been left on the sand by the tide. "Which way is the sea?" the starfish whispered. "I cannot see it. I do not know the way."

A tiny crab was scuttling past. She was very small, but she knew the way back to the water.

"This way!" called the tiny crab. She walked ahead slowly, so the starfish could keep up.

The starfish followed, one slow step after another, across the warm sand.

Then a wave rolled in. Splash! The starfish slid back into the cool, deep sea.

"Thank you!" said the starfish. The tiny crab waved a claw. She was small, but her big idea had helped a friend get home.

THE LESSON Even a little help matters.

Key words: **way** · the path you go along to get somewhere

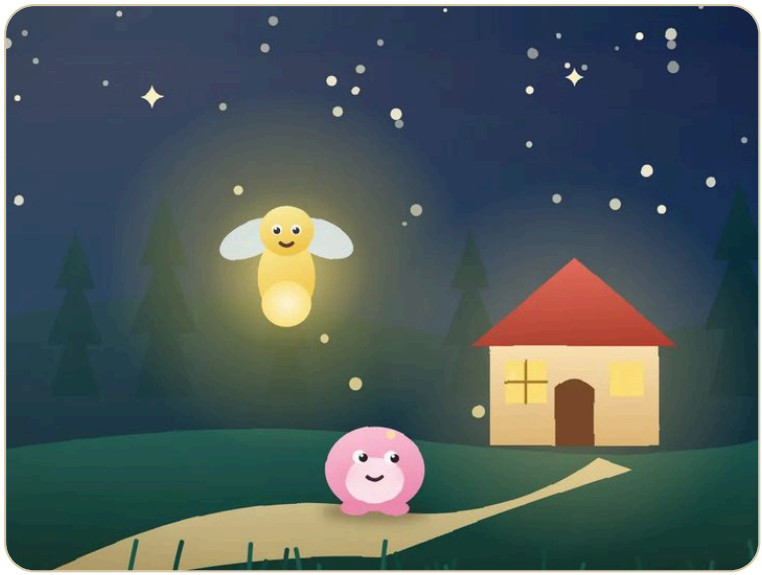
Talk about it

1. What did the crab do for the starfish?

2. Can you think of a time you showed someone the way?

3. Why is even a little help important?

The Firefly Who Hid Her Light



A tiny firefly had a very small light. “It is too small to matter,” she thought. So she tucked it away and hid it.

Then, one magical night, someone far from home could not find the way. It was dark, and every path looked the same.

The little firefly took a deep breath. She let her light shine.

It was tiny, but it was enough. Step by step, it showed the way.

Soon the traveller was safely home. “Thank you for your light,” said the traveller.

The firefly smiled. Even the smallest light can guide someone home.

THE LESSON **Never underestimate yourself. Your little light can make a big difference!**

Key words: **light** · brightness that helps us see | **guide** · to show someone the way

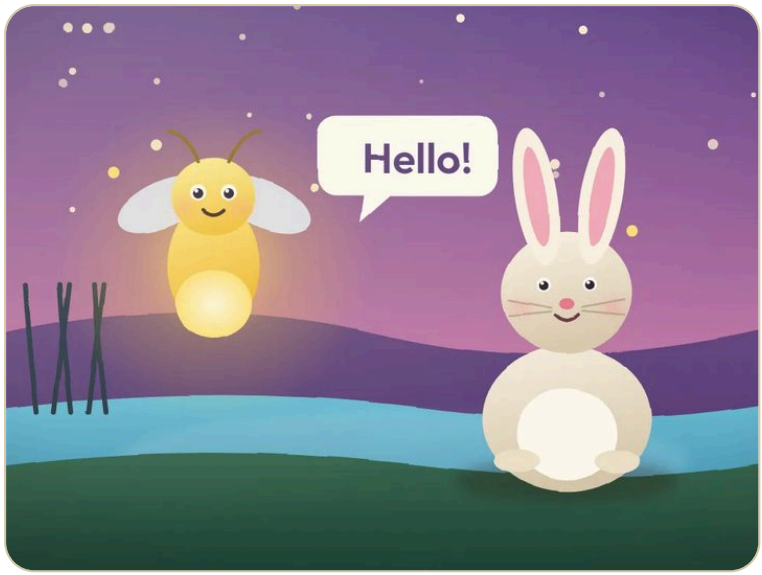
Talk about it

1. Why did the firefly hide her light?

2. What happened on the magical night?

3. Can you think of something small that you can do well?

One Little Hello



Lumi the firefly glowed softly in the evening air. Down by the pond, Lumi saw someone new.

Lumi wanted to say hello, but the words got stuck. “What if they do not want to play with me?” Lumi thought. Lumi’s little light flickered.

Lumi took a deep breath. Then, in a small voice, Lumi said, “Hello! Can I play with you?”

The new friend turned around and smiled. “Yes! I would love that.”

Soon the two of them were laughing together, and Lumi’s light glowed brighter than ever.

One little hello was all it took to make a new friend.

THE LESSON **A little courage can lead to a new friendship.**

Key words: **hello** · a word we say when we meet someone

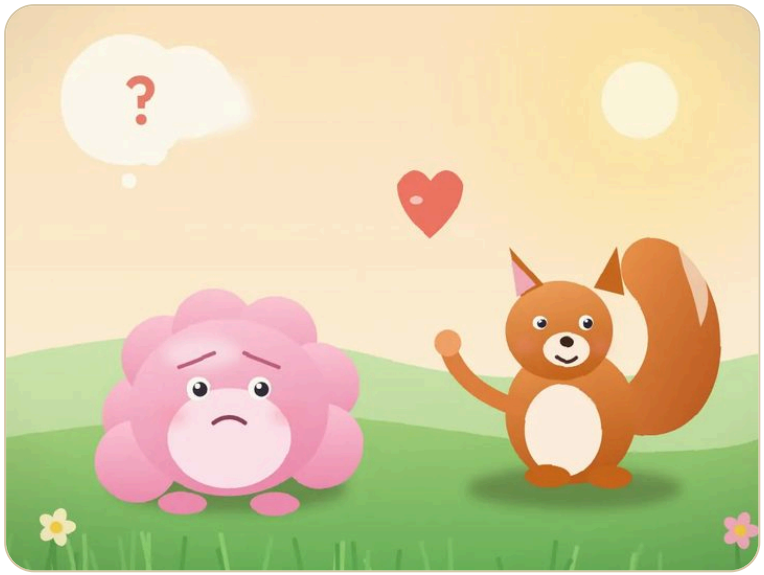
Talk about it

1. Have you ever felt shy about saying hello to someone new?

2. What can you say to ask a new friend to play?

3. What happened when Lumi said hello?

Can You Help Me?



Momo had a little problem. It was too big for Momo to fix alone, and Momo did not know what to do.

A squirrel was nearby and noticed. “Can I help?” asked the squirrel.

Momo felt a little shy. Then Momo took a breath. “Yes, please,” said Momo. “Can you help me?”

“Of course,” said the squirrel. Side by side, they worked on it together.

Soon the problem was solved. “Thank you!” said Momo. Asking for help had not been hard after all.

THE LESSON **Asking for help is a strength.**

Key words: **help** · to make something easier for someone

Talk about it

1. Have you ever needed help with something?

2. What can you say when you need a hand?

3. How did the squirrel help Momo?

The Thirsty Crow



It is a hot day and a crow has been flying for hours. He is very thirsty, and every pond and puddle he finds has dried up.

At last he spots a pitcher. He looks inside and sees a little water, but it is so low that his beak cannot reach it. He tries to tip the pitcher over, but it is too heavy.

The crow could give up. Instead he stops and thinks. Nearby he sees some small pebbles, and an idea comes to him.

He picks up one pebble and drops it into the pitcher. Then another, and another. Slowly the water starts to rise.

When the water is high enough, the crow drinks happily. He solved the problem with patience and a clever idea.

THE LESSON Clear thinking and effort find a way.

Key words: crow · thirsty · pitcher · pebble · water · clever

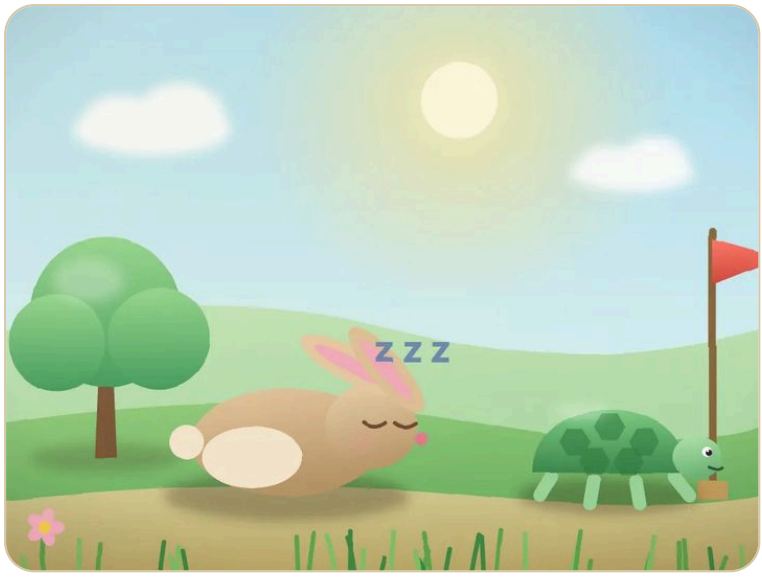
Talk about it

1. Why could the crow not reach the water?

2. What did the crow do instead of giving up?

3. Can you think of a time you solved a problem by thinking in a new way?

The Hare and the Tortoise



The hare is the fastest animal in the forest, and he never stops talking about it. He often laughs at the tortoise for walking so slowly.

One day the tortoise says, "Let us have a race." The hare agrees at once, sure that he will win.

The race begins and the hare shoots far ahead. He is so far in front that he decides to rest under a tree. Soon he is fast asleep.

The tortoise does not stop. Step by step he keeps walking, past the sleeping hare, and on towards the finish line.

When the hare wakes up, it is too late. The tortoise has already won. The hare lost because he was proud and stopped trying.

THE LESSON Go slowly if you need to, but do not stop.

Key words: hare · tortoise · race · fast · slow · win

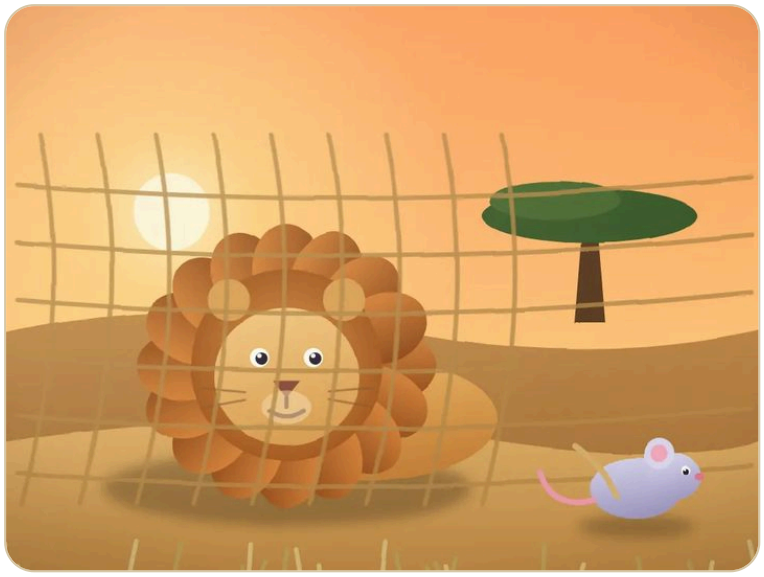
Talk about it

1. Why did the hare lose the race?

2. What did the tortoise do that the hare did not?

3. When is it hard to keep going? What helps you?

The Lion and the Mouse



A lion is sleeping in the forest when a small mouse runs across his paw. The lion wakes up angry and catches the mouse.

The mouse begs for mercy. He promises that one day he will help the lion. The lion laughs, because he cannot imagine a tiny mouse helping someone so strong, but he lets the mouse go.

Some days later the lion is caught in a hunter's net. He roars, but he cannot break free.

The mouse hears the roar and comes running. He chews through the ropes until the lion is free.

The lion learns that even the smallest friend can be a big help.

THE LESSON Never think of anyone as too small. Everyone has something they can do.

Key words: lion · mouse · net · rope · help · free

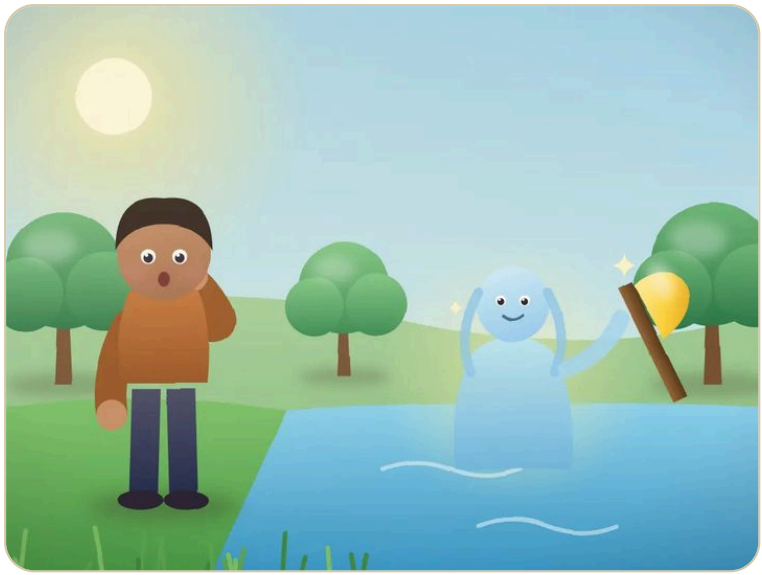
Talk about it

1. Why did the lion let the mouse go?

2. How did the mouse help the lion?

3. Can you remember a time when someone small helped you?

The Honest Woodcutter



A poor woodcutter is cutting wood beside a river when his axe slips from his hand and sinks into the water. It is the only axe he has, and he cannot work without it.

He sits on the bank, very sad. Then someone appears from the river and offers to help him.

The helper holds up a shining gold axe and asks, “Is this yours?” The woodcutter looks at it and says no. The helper holds up a silver axe. Again the woodcutter says it is not his.

At last the helper shows his own plain iron axe. “Yes,” says the woodcutter, “that one is mine.”

In the classic version, the helper is so pleased with the woodcutter’s honesty that he gives him all three axes. The woodcutter was ready to lose everything rather than tell a lie.

THE LESSON Honesty always brings a good result.

Key words: woodcutter · axe · river · gold · silver · honest

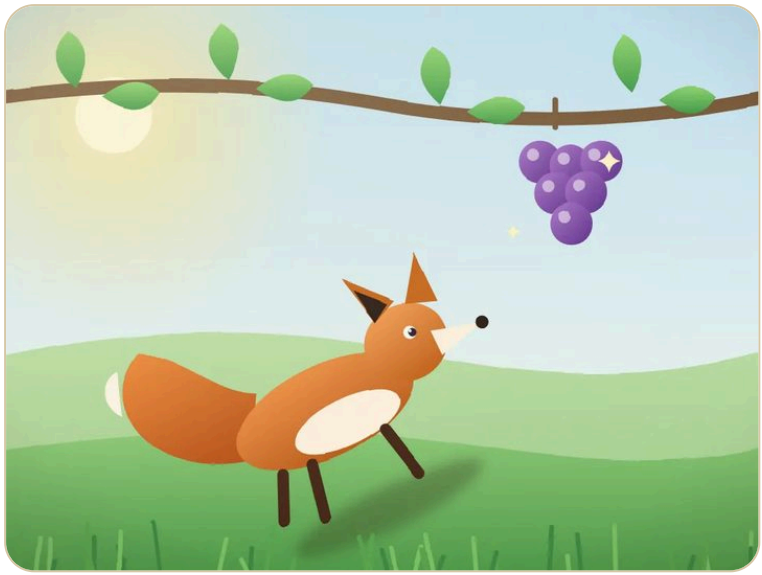
Talk about it

1. Why did the woodcutter say the gold axe was not his?

2. What would you do if you found something that was not yours?

3. How do you feel when someone tells you the truth?

The Fox and the Grapes



A fox is walking through a garden on a hot day when she sees a bunch of ripe grapes hanging from a vine, high above her head. Her mouth waters.

She jumps, but she cannot reach them. She jumps again, higher, and still falls short. She tries again and again until she is tired.

At last she gives up. The grapes are still too high.

As she walks away, she says, “I am sure those grapes are sour anyway!”

The fox could not have the grapes, so she decided they were not worth having. It is easier to blame the grapes than to say, “I could not reach them.”

THE LESSON **It is not right to call something bad just because we could not have it.**

Key words: fox · grapes · high · jump · try · sour

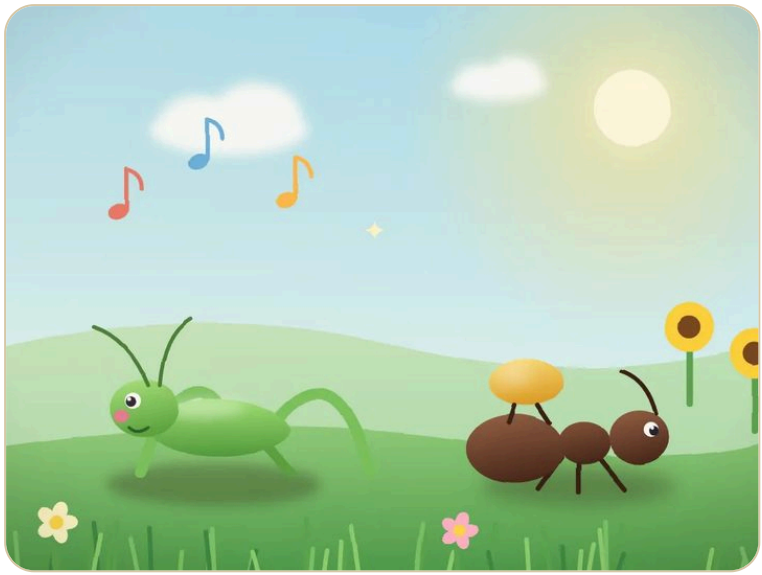
Talk about it

1. Why could the fox not get the grapes?

2. Why do you think the fox said the grapes were sour?

3. What can we say when we cannot have something we want?

The Ant and the Grasshopper



It is a warm, sunny summer. A grasshopper hops about in the fields, playing and singing all day.

Nearby, an ant is hard at work. She carries small grains of food back to her nest, one after another, and stores them away.

“Why are you working so hard?” asks the grasshopper. “Come and play with me!” But the ant keeps collecting her food.

Then winter arrives. The fields are cold and empty, and there is nothing for the grasshopper to eat. He is hungry.

The ant has plenty of food stored. She worked while the sun was shining, so she is ready for the cold days.

THE LESSON **Hard work and preparation always pay off.**

Key words: ant | grasshopper | summer | winter | food | hungry

Talk about it

1. What did the ant do all summer?

2. Why was the grasshopper hungry in winter?

3. What can you do today to be ready for tomorrow?

The Boy Who Cried Wolf



A boy looks after the sheep on a hill near his village. The days are long and he is bored.

One day he shouts, “Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is here!” The villagers drop their work and run up the hill. There is no wolf, and the boy laughs at them.

He plays the trick again, and again the villagers run to help. Again there is no wolf, and they go home unhappy.

Then one day a wolf really does come. The boy shouts, “Wolf! Wolf!” as loudly as he can. But this time nobody comes.

The villagers think it is another trick. Because he lied so many times, no one believes him when he tells the truth.

THE LESSON Lies make people lose trust in you.

Key words: boy · wolf · sheep · help · truth · lie

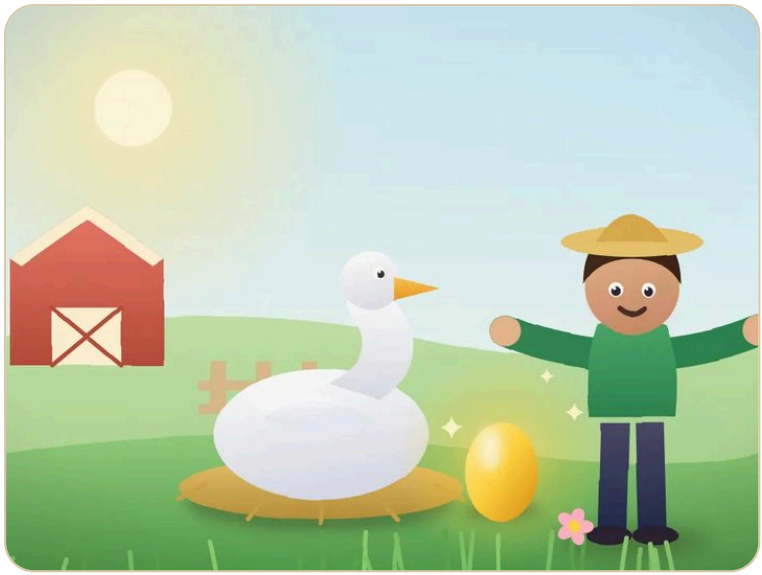
Talk about it

1. Why did the villagers stop coming?

2. How do you think the boy felt at the end?

3. How can we make people trust us?

The Golden Egg



A farmer has a goose, and one morning he finds a shining golden egg in her nest. He sells it and is very pleased.

The next day there is another golden egg, and the day after that, another. Every day the farmer gets a little richer.

But he becomes impatient. One egg a day is not enough for him. He wants all the gold now.

In his greed, he thinks the goose must be full of gold inside. He decides to cut her open and take all of it at once.

There is no gold inside. The farmer has lost the goose and the golden eggs, and he is left with nothing.

THE LESSON Greed brings trouble.

Key words: farmer · egg · gold · every day · greedy · lose

Talk about it

1. What did the farmer find every day?

2. Why was it a mistake to want all the gold at once?

3. Can you think of a time when waiting was better?

My story diary

Which stories have I read?

Tick each story when you have read it, then fill in the boxes below.

- [ ] The Ant and the Little Leaf
- [ ] The Rainbow Nobody Owned
- [ ] The Cloud Who Refused to Share
- [ ] The Firefly Who Hid Her Light
- [ ] Can You Help Me?
- [ ] The Hare and the Tortoise
- [ ] The Honest Woodcutter
- [ ] The Ant and the Grasshopper
- [ ] The Golden Egg
- [ ] The Little Mouse and the Last Berry
- [ ] The Little Star That Lied
- [ ] The Tiny Crab's Big Idea
- [ ] One Little Hello
- [ ] The Thirsty Crow
- [ ] The Lion and the Mouse
- [ ] The Fox and the Grapes
- [ ] The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Draw your favourite part of a story

Draw here

My favourite story is:

The lesson I want to remember:

For parents and teachers. There are no wrong answers on any page. Ask "Why do you think…?" and listen. More stories, videos and printables are free at flucie.com.