

1 Read and mark (✓ or X) the sentences.

More than 2,500 years ago, Aesop wrote lots of short stories called *fables*. Fables are didactic: they have a moral at the end that teaches you a lesson from the story.

1. Aesop invented fables 250 years ago. _____
2. Fables have a moral at the end. _____
3. You learn something when you read a fable. _____

2 Read and underline the moral.

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

There was once a shepherd boy who lived on a farm. Every day he took his father's sheep to a mountain far away. He did not like being there on his own. He was very bored. One day he thought, "I want to have some fun. I am going to call 'Wolf! Wolf!' People are going to come to help me!" So the boy called "Wolf! Wolf!" and everybody ran to help him. When they came, he just said, "There is no

wolf. It was just a joke. Go back to the village. Ha! Ha! Ha!" The shepherd boy called "Wolf!" two more times. When the villagers arrived, he laughed and said there was no wolf. One day, however, the wolf did come. "Help! Help! The wolf is here!" called the boy. But somebody in the village said, "He just calls us for fun. There is no danger. Let's stay here." So nobody went to help him, and the wolf killed all the sheep. ■

1. We should always have a good time.
2. People like jokes because they are fun.
3. If we tell lies, nobody believes us when we tell the truth.

3 Read one fable and tell it to a friend.

The Dog and the Meat

A dog stole a piece of meat and ran away with it. He found a river and saw his own reflection in the water. He thought it was another dog carrying more meat. So the dog thought he should take the other dog's food to eat more. He opened his jaws and dropped his own meat into the water.

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

A wolf was looking at a flock of sheep and thought, "If I wear a sheep's disguise, I can join the flock. When I get hungry, I can easily catch one." So the wolf found a sheep's skin, put it on and joined the flock. That night, the shepherd felt hungry. He grabbed the nearest sheep and made a delicious roast. But the sheep was actually the wolf.

Write a moral for each fable.

The Dog and the Meat _____

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing _____