The Fox and the Goat

Adapted from The Aesop for Children

1 A Fox fell into a well and could not get out again. After a long time, a thirsty Goat came by. The Goat thought the Fox had gone down to drink, so he asked if the water was good.

2 "The finest in the country," said the Fox, "jump in and try it."

3 The Goat jumped in and began to drink. The Fox quickly jumped on the Goat's back and leaped out of the well.

4 The Goat now saw what trouble he had gotten into and begged the Fox to help him out. But the Fox was already on his way to the woods.

5 "If you had as much sense as you have beard," he said as he ran, "you would have been more cautious about finding a way to get out again before you jumped in."

6 *Moral: Look before you leap.*

The Wolf and the Crane

Adapted from *The Aesop for Children*

1 A Wolf had been feasting, and a bone had stuck in his throat. He could get it neither up nor down, and of course he could not eat.

2 So away he hurried to the Crane. He was sure that she, with her long neck and bill, would be able to reach the bone and pull it out. "I will reward you," said the Wolf, "if you pull that bone out for me."

3 The Crane was very uneasy about putting her head in a Wolf's throat. But she did what the Wolf asked her to do. When the Wolf felt that the bone was gone, he started to walk away.

4 "But what about my reward!" called the Crane.

5 "What!" snarled the Wolf, whirling around. "Isn't it enough that I let you take your head out of my mouth without snapping it off?"

6 *Moral: Expect no reward for serving the wicked.*

Close Reader Habits

Circle the main characters in each fable. **Underline** the moral, or lesson, that is stated at the end of each story.

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Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 369.

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3 **Short Response** Describe how the two fables are alike and different. Be sure to use details about characters, setting, and theme from each story.

HINT Think about how you can organize your writing to show how things are the same and how they are different.



Don't forget to check your writing.

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