

The Fox & the Crow An Aesop Fable

One bright morning as the fox was following his sharp nose through the wood in search of a bite to eat, he saw a crow on the limb of a tree overhead. This was by no means the first crow the fox had ever seen. What caught his attention this time, & made him stop for a second look, was that the lucky crow held a bit of cheese in her beak.

“No need to search any farther,” thought sly master fox. “Here is a dainty bite for my breakfast.”

Up he trotted to the foot of the tree in which the crow was sitting, & looking up admiringly, he cried,

“Good-morning, beautiful creature!”

The crow, her head cocked to one side, watched the fox suspiciously. But she kept her beak tightly closed on the cheese & did not return his greeting.

“What a charming creature she is!” said the fox. “How her feathers shine! What a beautiful form & what splendid wings! Such a wonderful bird should have a very lovely voice, since everything else about her is so perfect. Could she sing just one song, I know I should hail her Queen of Birds.”

Listening to these flattering words, the Crow forgot all her suspicion. For she knew Fox spoke the truth & wanted very much to be called Queen of Birds.

So, forgetting about her breakfast, she opened her beak wide to utter her loudest caw, & down fell the cheese straight into the fox’s open mouth.

“Thank you,” said Master Fox sweetly, as he walked off. “Though it is cracked, you have a voice sure enough. But where are your wits?”

Crow felt very foolish for being so vain, & thought to herself, “I will never be so arrogant as to be fooled by flattery again.

There are two morals to this story. Firstly, don’t believe everything you hear, for flattery is often given for a selfish purpose. Secondly, being too proud can make you look foolish.

Fox & Crow clothespin puppet craft:

You will need:

- Included Aesop Fable: The Fox & the Crow
- Included fox & crow printout—two sides of each animal, one the reverse of the other.
- 2 clothespins
- Glue
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors

How to assemble:

1. Color the cheese & both sides of the fox & the crow.
2. Cut out the cheese & both sides of the fox & the crow.
3. See how each animal character lines up with the clothespin & cut where the mouth will open & close.
4. Glue the pieces of each animal to both sides of the clothespin making sure they line up evenly to cover as much of the clothespin as possible while still allowing the opening & closing of the mouth properly. Note: before gluing in place, make sure your fingers can still grab the clothespin comfortably to open & close the mouth.

Now tell the story included using these props.

Can you make up other stories for these characters?



