

## A Trip to the World of Fables

**Jean Donatto**

**Grades K-3**

### ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Actress and storyteller Jean Donatto takes audiences on a journey through the classic fables that have proven through the years to engage and inform. Jean puts her own creative spin on such stories as “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” and “The Ant and the Grasshopper.” Jean’s fables are a gentle way to remind us all to examine our choices and make sure we know that a good choice is always available.

### TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Theatre	Lang. Arts	Math	Science	<b>The Students Will:</b> * Interpret characters using the voice and body expressively and create dramatizations. * Respond to and evaluate theatre and theatrical performances. * Write imaginative stories to express their ideas and feelings that include a beginning, middle, end, and details about character, setting and theme. * Use graphs to communicate mathematical reasoning. * Use concrete models to perform addition and subtraction problems. * Discuss the life cycle of insects. * Identify and describe the flow of energy in a food chain and how changes in a food chain affect the ecosystem.
<b>K</b>	K.2, K.5	K.14	K.1, K.3	K.9, K.10	
<b>1</b>	1.2, 1.5	1.18	1.1, 1.3	1.9, 1.10	
<b>2</b>	2.2, 2.5	2.18	2.1, 2.7	2.9, 2.10	
<b>3</b>	3.2, 3.5	3.18	3.1, 3.3	3.9, 3.10	

### STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Subject	Grade	Reporting Category	<b>The Students Will:</b> * Compose a variety of written texts with a clear, central idea; coherent organization; sufficient development; and effective use of language and conventions. * Demonstrate an understanding of the structures and function of living organisms and their interdependence on each other and on their environment.
Writing	4	1	
Science	5	4	

### Academic Vocabulary:

Fable	A story meant to teach a useful lesson, called a moral, which usually involves the principles of right and wrong. A fable often has characters who are animals that speak and act like humans.		
Characters	Plot	Solution	Dialogue
Conflict	Problem	Setting	Theme

### CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

#### *Before the performance*

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- Talk about your favorite stories from when you were little. Why did you like these stories?

***After the performance:***

- How did these fables make you feel? Why?
- Tell, write, draw or act out your favorite part of the performance.

**Language Arts:**

- Create a Fable Story Board on a piece of construction paper (see below). Draw pictures of the main events and then write the moral of the fable.

<b>Title:</b>		
First:	Second:	Next:
Then:	Last:	Moral:

- Fables in a Bag! Cut the following character cards out and put them in a paper bag. Pick two cards out of the bag. With a partner, use these two characters to write your fable and decide on the lesson you want to teach. Illustrate this "new" fable that you have created together.

**Characters** (Write these characters on cards to put in the bag.)

Rabbit	Rooster	Dog	Lion
Fox	Pig	Hen	Donkey
Crow	Duck	Wolf	Cow
Bear	Eagle	Ant	Goose
Grasshopper	Mouse	Monkey	Rat

You can use the following story starters or you can decide on another one:

- ✓ A \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ learn a lesson in friendship.
- ✓ A \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ learn a lesson in sharing.
- ✓ A \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ learn a lesson in humility.
- ✓ A \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ learn a lesson in patience.

- Write a letter to the ant or to the grasshopper telling it what you think about its behavior. What do you think the morally correct thing to do was? Should the ant have shared with the grasshopper? Why or why not?

- Create a puppet show of the characters in the fables.
- In your journal, write about how the moral of one of the fables might apply to your own life.

### **Math:**

- Make a Fables Number Book. Copy the numbers from the board and choose the animals to illustrate each number. Then in small groups, use your Fables Number Book to tell stories about the animals you illustrated.
- Each student will draw and cut out 5-10 sheep of various sizes. Working in small groups, put all of the sheep together and then sort them from smallest to largest and largest to smallest. Then put the sheep into groups of tens. Create problems of addition and subtraction and use the sheep to work out the problems.
- Write story problems about the wolf and the sheep in the fable. Trade your problems with a partner and solve.
- Graph your favorite fable by using data collected from the following questions:
  - ✓ How many people liked "The Ant and the Grasshopper" best?
  - ✓ How many people would help the grasshopper?
  - ✓ How many people liked "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" best?
  - ✓ How many people would believe the boy?
 Then complete the following math problems:
  - ✓ How many more children chose \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_?
  - ✓ How many fewer children chose \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_?
  - ✓ How many children chose \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ all together?

### **Social Studies:**

- From lessons on morals and values in the fables, discuss the following concepts:  
\* Responsibility \* Privacy \* Justice \* Authority \* Freedom \* Diversity
- Aesop was an ancient Greek storyteller whose stories are now called "Aesop's Fables." Find Greece on a map. Google Greece to see images and facts about this country. Tell the class what you found.

### **Science:**

- Wolves - Learn about Red Wolves and Gray Wolves. Where do they live? What do they eat? Why are they on the Endangered Species List? Make a poster of your findings and share it with the class.
- Ants – Read about ants and the life cycle of an ant. Draw and label the external anatomy of the ant. Also draw and label pictures to represent each phase of the life cycle.
- Who are the predators of sheep and of wolves? Discuss the food chain.

### Resources:

#### Related Websites:

<http://www.aesopfables.com/>

<https://www.google.com/search?q=the+ant+and+the+grasshopper&espv=2&biw=1920&bih=913&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=Mcw2VNrEMqO98gGLoYHwCA&sqi=2&ved=0CDAQsAQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Pxqy-xRDzo>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/stories/aesop/antgrasshopper/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heasnJY8HMM>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gray\\_Wolf&oldid=148938695](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gray_Wolf&oldid=148938695)

#### Related SmartBoard

<http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=Aesop%27s+Fables>

<http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/fairytales>

### ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Actress, storyteller, playwright, director, radio personality, teacher and mentor Jean Donatto brings years of varied experience to each performance and workshop. As a seasoned professional actress, Jean appeared in such popular films as *Home Fries*, and was featured in the KHOU production of *Gumby's Playhouse*. Trained by the American Conservatory Theater, Jean also performs frequently with Houston's Ensemble Theater, Stages Repertory Theatre and The Presidio in San Francisco. Jean's commitment to children is evident in her numerous and influential roles in many educational organizations. She has worked with the Children's Prison Art Project, the Texas Institute for the Arts in Education, the Texas Trunk Theater, Houston Grand Opera S.T.A.R.S. program, Houston International Theatre, and Young Audiences of Houston.