

Name _____



Fables Teach

Fables are short stories that teach important moral lessons. One well-known fable is *The Little Red Hen*, which teaches about hard work and responsibility. The story follows a hardworking hen who asks for help from her barnyard friends—the Dog, the Cat, and the Duck—to make bread. Each time she asks, they refuse to help. When the bread is finally baked, they all want to eat it, but the Hen decides that only she deserves the reward because she did all the work.

Like many fables, *The Little Red Hen* teaches a clear lesson: effort leads to rewards, while laziness results in missed opportunities. This idea is similar to other classic fables, such as *The Ant and the Grasshopper*, a famous tale from Aesop's Fables. In that story, an ant works hard all summer to gather food, while the grasshopper plays and sings instead of preparing for winter. When winter arrives, the ant has plenty to eat, but the grasshopper is left hungry. Both stories show that those who work hard will benefit in the end, while those who do not will face difficulties.

Another fable with a similar theme is *The Tortoise and the Hare*, also from Aesop's Fables. In this story, a slow-moving tortoise races against a fast but arrogant hare. The hare believes he will win easily, so he takes a long nap during the race. Meanwhile, the tortoise keeps moving steadily and wins. This fable teaches that determination and effort matter more than natural talent or speed. Like the *Little Red Hen*, the tortoise works steadily and earns success, while the hare's laziness costs him the race.

Although these fables have different characters and settings, they all share the idea that hard work and responsibility lead to success. *The Little Red Hen* is different from *The Ant and the Grasshopper* because it focuses on fairness. The Hen chooses not to share the bread because she believes that only those who work should enjoy the reward. The other fables do not have a character who actively teaches a lesson to others, as the Hen does.

Fables like these continue to be popular because they teach timeless lessons in simple, memorable ways. Whether it's the hardworking Hen, the steady Tortoise, or the wise Ant, these characters remind readers that effort, patience, and responsibility are key to success.