

Fables 1

Explanation

A **fable** is a type of **traditional story**. It tends to be short and often ends with a **moral** that tells us what we should learn from the story. The **characters** in a fable are often **animals** but they behave just like humans! We learn from the mistakes they make.

Activities

- 1 Read this **fable** about a dog. Think about what the **moral** of the story might be.

The Dog and the Bone

A dog sniffing round the back of a butcher's stall had found a juicy piece of meat. As he trotted home carrying the meat in his mouth, he looked forward to devouring it.

Soon the dog reached a stream with a plank laid across it to help people cross. As he was crossing the stream, he looked down and saw his own reflection in the water. Thinking it was another dog, with another piece of meat, he made up his mind to have that piece of meat as well as his own. 'What a feast I will have then,' he thought.

The dog made a sudden grab for the meat reflected in the water. But as soon as he opened his mouth, his own piece of meat fell out, disappearing into the water – never to be seen again. And so the dog went home hungry – but perhaps wiser.



- 2 Tick which of these **morals** best fits this story.

- Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.
- Slow and steady wins the day.
- Don't be greedy; be satisfied with what you have.
- If at first you don't succeed, try, try, and try again.

Did you know?

'The Dog and the Bone' was probably first told in the sixth century BC in Ancient Greece by a man called **Aesop** ('ee-sop'). He made up lots of fables, which have been popular ever since.