BRIDGES EDITION

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

FABLES



Town Mouse and Country Mouse

Belling the Cat

The Dog and the Wolf





retold by Cynthia Swain

Benchmark EDUCATION

Genre: Fables
Level: K/20*

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

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LITERARY ANALYSIS
- Respond to and interpret text
- Make text-to-text connections
- Analyze the genre

READING SKILLS
Comprehension
- Analyze story elements
- Make judgments

Word Study
- Description

Tier Two Vocabulary (see Glossary)

WRITING SKILLS
Writer's Tools
- Idiom

Writer's Craft
- How to write a fable

THEME CONNECTIONS
- World Cultures
- Integrity

*The reading level assigned to this text is based on the genre examples only. "Focus on the Genre," "Reread," and "Writer's Craft" features were not leveled. These sections are intended for read-aloud or shared reading.

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The Readers' & Writers' Genre Workshop series includes eleven fiction and nonfiction genres. There are two titles with multiple stories for each genre.

How to use this book

1. Learn about the genre by reading pages 2–3. Get background information about the stories on pages 4–5.
2. Read the fables for enjoyment.
3. Reread the stories and answer the questions on pages 11, 15, and 21.
4. Reread the last story. Pay attention to the comments in the margins. See how an author writes a fable.
5. Follow the steps on pages 22–23 to write your own fable.
6. Complete the activity on the inside back cover. Answer the follow-up questions.

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Town Mouse and Country Mouse



Belling the Cat



The Dog and the Wolf

THREE FABLES FROM AESOP

retold by Cynthia Swain

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FABLES

What is a fable?

A fable (FAY-bul) is a very short story. All fables teach a lesson, or moral (MOR-ul). In most fables, the characters are animals.

What is the purpose of a fable?

Fables teach people lessons. Fables point out foibles (FOY-bulz) that people have. A foible is a character flaw. Being boastful is a flaw. Being dishonest is also a flaw. Fables show why the flaw is bad. Fables are also fun to read. Most of us enjoy poking fun at one another.

Who invented fables?

People have told fables for thousands of years. Ancient peoples around the world all told fables. Later, in the Middle Ages, people continued this way of storytelling. Today, some authors still use the fable genre.

How do you read a fable?

When you read a fable, note the title. The title will tell you who the main characters are. Each character stands for ways that humans behave. Ask yourself, *What human trait does each character show?* Then note what happens to the main characters. Think about how the events teach the moral.

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Features of a Fable

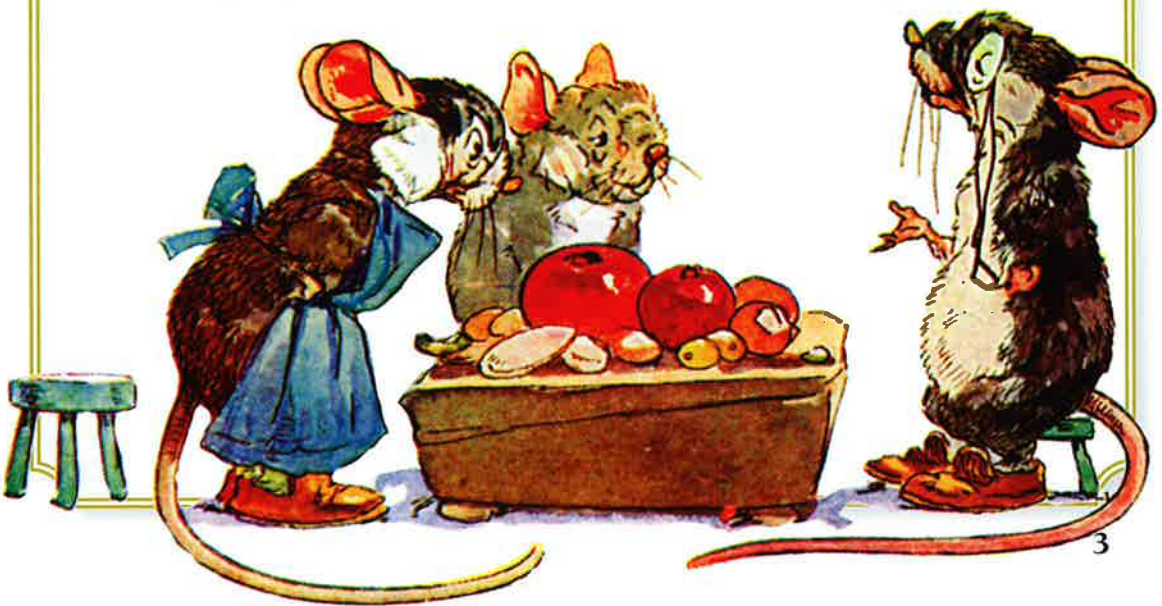
The main characters are usually animals.

The story is brief.

At least one character has a flaw or problem.

The story has a moral stated at the end.

One character learns something from another character.



Meet the AUTHOR

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Name: Aesop (EE-sahp)

Date of Birth: 620 B.C.



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Place of Birth: No one is sure where Aesop was born. Many places in Greece and Africa have claimed to be his birthplace.

His Life: Most people who study history think Aesop was born a slave. While a slave, he lived on the Greek island of Samos (SAY-mahs). Later, he was given his freedom and became active in public affairs. Aesop traveled through many countries and met with great thinkers and rulers. While employed by the ruler Croesus (KREE-sus), he visited many cities and shared fables to help bring the people together under Croesus's rule.

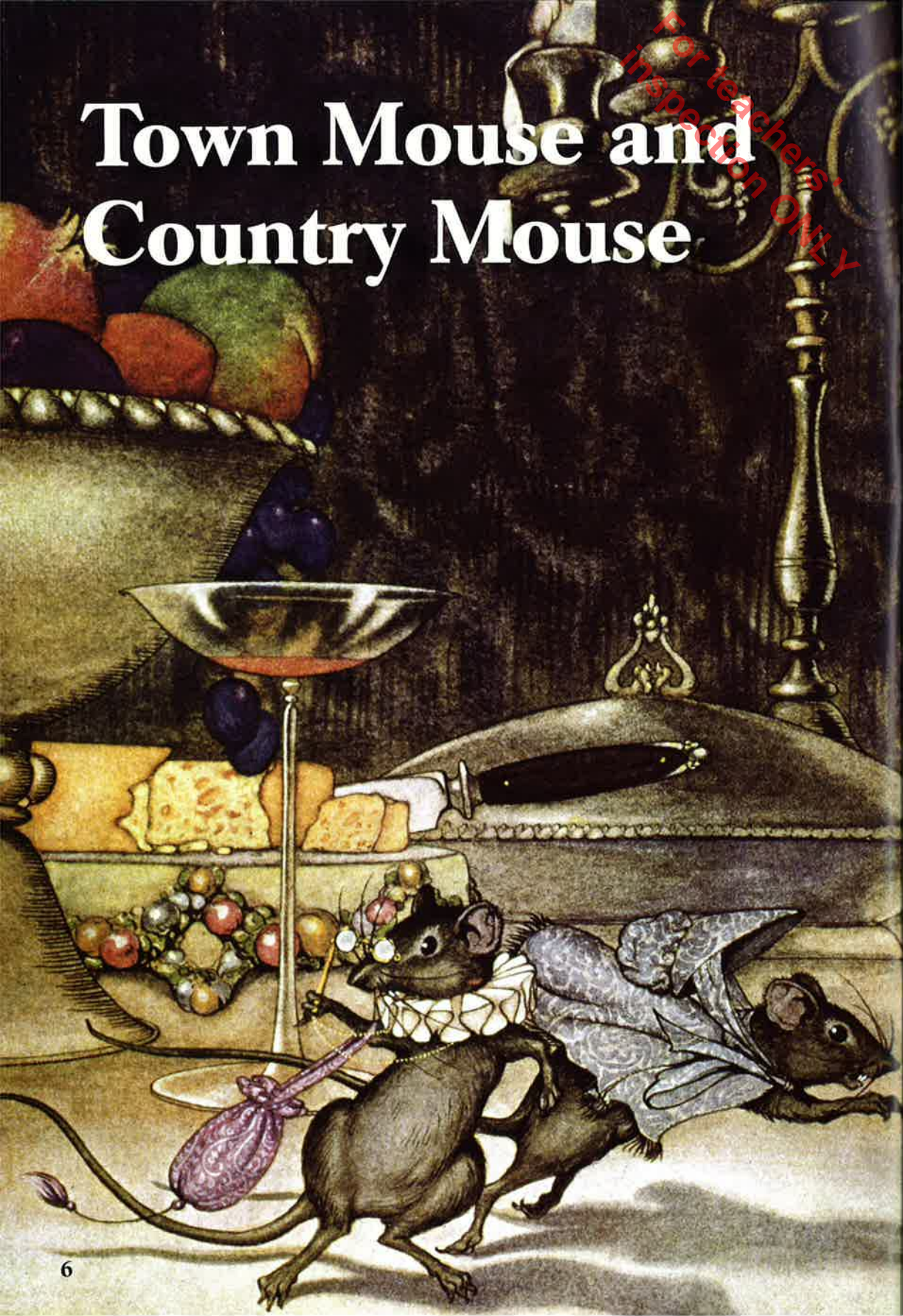
His Works: Most people agree that Aesop never wrote down his fables himself. Around 300 B.C., a Greek philosopher, Phalereus (fuh-LAIR-ee-us), made the first collection of Aesop's fables.

Tools Writers Use

Idiom

An **idiom** (IH-dee-um) is a phrase or expression that makes language more colorful and interesting. Idioms do not use the literal (exact) meaning of the phrase. Consider the sentence: "Ken is such a penny-pincher that he won't buy an umbrella to keep off the rain." This does not mean that Ken actually squeezes coins. Instead, it means that Ken does not like to spend money. Since idioms are commonly used in conversation and writing, people grow to understand what they mean in a particular culture.

Town Mouse and Country Mouse



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