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##### Aesops’ Fables Prologue

**Teacher:** Good day, class! Please take out paper and a pencil.

**Kid 1:** Will this be on the test?

**Teacher:**  It is very possible. Now, as your teacher and the oldest member of this faculty, I have witnessed the precipitous decline…

**Kid 2:** How do you spell that?

**Teacher:**  P-r-e-c-i-p-i-t-o-u-s, precipitous.

**Kid 2:** Thanks!

**Teacher:** As I was saying, having taught at this school for 25 years, I have witnessed the precipitous decline of moral behavior among my students.

**Kid 3:** Is that good or bad?

**Teacher:** It’s certainly **not** a good thing. Therefore, we are beginning a unit on Aesop’s Fables, which I hope will instill some common sense in all of you. Aesop was a Greek writer who lived approximately 2500 years ago.

**Kid 4:** That’s ancient history!

**Kid 5:** Why should we care?

**Teacher:** “Why should we care?”, indeed! His stories are still alive today. He has been quoted by Aristotle, Ben Franklin, even Walt Disney!

**Kid 6:** Can we take a trip to Walt Disney World?

**Teacher:** No trips! Now, start writing! Aesop’s Fables are unique because they all end with a moral.

**Kid 6:** You mean, a kind of lesson?

**Teacher:** Exactly. The story demonstrates this moral, or lesson.

**Kid 5:** I’m bored!

**Teacher:** Perhaps you would find a chat with the principal more interesting? *(Kid 5*

*shakes his head vigorously)* I thought not. *(getting back to the subject)* Now, in the case of “The Tortoise and the Hare”…

**Kid 4:**  “The Tortoise and the Hare?!” I read that in **kindergarten**!

**Kid 3:** Oh, you mean **that** guy? Did he write “The Country Mouse and the City Mouse?”

**Teacher:** Well…yes, as a matter of fact…

**Kid 2:** We read “Androcles & the Lion” in second grade!

**Teacher:** Good for you. Now, as I was saying, you children today lack the moral fiber and training we had growing up, so…

**Kids 1:** Morals! We know all about morals!

**Kid 5:** We’ve heard these stories since pre-school!

**Kid 7:** Teacher, may we show you what we know?

**Teacher:** Please do!

**SONG: “Morals!”**

**All:** “Can’t please everybody!”

“Think for yourself!”

“Be careful who you trust!”

“Slow and steady wins the race!”

“When circumstances change, adjust!”

“Don’t take more than you give!”

“Look before you leap!”

“Always live and let live!”

“You’ll find what you sow is what you reap!”

**GROUP 1 GROUP 2**

“Can’t please everybody!” “Can’t please everybody!”

“Think for yourself!” “Think for yourself!”

“Be careful who you trust!” “Be careful!”

“Slow and steady wins the race!”` “Slow and steady wins the race!”

“When circumstances change, adjust!” Adjust!

“Give help first, then advice!” “Give help first, then advice!”

“A friend in need, is a friend indeed!” “A friend in need, is a friend indeed!”

“It pays to always be nice!” “It pays to always be nice!”

“Work together and you’ll succeed!” “Work together and you’ll succeed!”

Morals! Uh-huhn! We got’em! Morals! Uh-huhn! We got’em!

Ev’rything from “A” to “Z” Ev’rything from “A” to “Z”

Quarrels! Uh-Oh! You’ll see some! Quarrels! Uh-Oh! You’ll see some!

We’re dealing with humanity! Right here, now!

**GROUP 1** **GROUP 2**

Can’t please ev’rybody! Can’t please ev’rybody!

“Think for yourself!” “Think for yourself!”

“Be careful who you trust!” “Be careful!”

“Slow and steady wins the race!”` “Slow and steady wins the race!”

“When circumstances change, adjust!” Adjust!

**SOLO:** Don’t make fun of others!

## GROUP 1 GROUP 2

Ev’ryone’s special, in his own way!Ev’ryone’s special, in his own way!

**SOLO:** Treat your neighbors as brothers!

**ALL:**  But, don’t believe everything they say!

*(to teacher)* Teacher! Teacher! How we doin’?

Are we on the right track? Uh-huhn!

Is this the wisdom we should be pursuing,

Or is our thinking out of whack?

**Teacher:** *(spoken)* In my opinion, I do see some improvement here. Of course, in my

day things were much different!

**ALL:**  “Hind-sight’s twenty-twenty!”

“Prepare in days of plenty, for times of necessity!”

“Good old self-reliance, is better than defiance!

Hold onto reality!

**Teacher:** *(spoken)* My point, exactly! Morals! “Morals” are what you children of today lack!

**Kid 1:** Morals?!

**Kid 2:** We’ve told you every moral we know!

**Teacher:** Yes! But, can you **show** me you understand what they mean?

**All:** We’ll show you!

**ALL:** We are moral authorities! We are moral authorities!

“We look before we leap!” “Make promises we keep!”

“We stand up for a friend, stick by him to the end!”

“We never tell a lie or make our siblings cry!”

We take care of details, that’s why we never fail!

We’re perfect! So perfect!

**Teacher:** *(spoken)*  “Pride comes before a fall!”

**ALL:**  Let’s show her what we know,

And so, on with the show! On with the show!

*(Teacher exits after end of song)*

### SCENE 1: THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE

**Hare: *(sarcastically & loudly making fun of the Tortoise)***

Hey now! Ho now! If it isn’t the pokester! Hey pokester! What’s the rush? If you don’t slow down, you’ll make it across the road by lunch! Heh, heh, heh, heh!

**Tortoise:** ***(slowly with a kind of “John Wayne” drawl****)* Very funny Harry. I’d

appreciate it if you stop talking to me. You’re breaking my concentration. Slow and steady!

**Hare:** Ooo! Ooo! Ooo! I understand completely. Won’t say another word. We “a-tha-letes” have to keep our minds on the game! And I certainly wouldn’t want to be responsible for adding another **hour** to your crawling time! Ha! Ha! Ha! Pardon my mirth!

**Tortoise:** You think you’re **so**, hot Harry. I’ve had enough of your constant

harassment and I’m not going to take it any more! I challenge you to a race!

**Hare:** A **race**? **You** and me in a race? Ha! Ha! Ha!

**Tortoise:** That’s what I said! It’s time we settled this once and for all!

**Hare:** ***(calling to all the Animals Onstage)*** Hey everybody! Listen up! Ol’ pokester here, has challenged me to a race!

**Everybody:** Ha! Ha! Ha!

**Fox:** *(****coming forward & speaking up like a race announcer)***

Race? Did you say a race? Alright folks! Step right up and place your bets here! The tortoise and the hare! The race of the century!

**Goat:** ***(stepping forward)*** I’ll put twenty acorns on the hare!

**Owl:** Give me **3** acorns on the hare!

**Squirrel:** I’ll take 25 on the hare!

**Owl:** Then, make that **one hundred**, why don’t you?

**Tortoise:** ***(sadly)*** Gee! Isn’t anyone going to bet on me?

**Grasshopper:** *(****hippie-style of speaking)*** Hey, fox? What are the odds?

**Fox:** 40 to 1 in favor of the hare.

**Grasshopper:** ***(shocked, making a face)*** Ooooooohhhhh………

**Tortoise:** ***(begging the Grasshopper)*** Pleeeeeeaaaaase!

**Grasshopper:** ***(sighing)*** Alright, dude. What can I say? Like, the tortoise is my bud. Uh….give me two acorns on the tortoise.

**Tortoise:** Only two?

**Grasshopper:** ***(shrugging)*** That’s all I’ve got, dude!

**Fox:** Runners to the starting line! ***(The tortoise is very slow****)* Could somebody **puh-lease** do something about the tortoise? We haven’t got **all** day. ***(Some carry him to the starting line)***On your mark! Get set! Go!

**Everybody:** Yeah! ***(cheering)***

**Hare: *(hopping circles around the tortoise****)* Hey, now pokester! You’ll have to do better than that!

**Fox:** Still taking bets, folks! The odds are now **60** to one!

**Tortoise:** ***(moving slowly & chanting)*** Slow and steady! Slow and steady!

**Hare:** Meet you here next week! I’m off for my morning constitutional! ***(the Hare runs in the opposite direction)***

**Fox:** It looks like Harry is giving the tortoise a handicap. Go about your

business, folks! I’ll call you when the end is near!

**Owl:** Mr. Fox! I’ll be happy to keep an eye out for them.

**Tortoise:** Slow and steady! Slow and steady!

**Fox:** ***(looking askance at the Tortoise & shaking his head)***

Do you think he has a prayer?

**Owl:** Perseverance can do many things genius cannot. ***(The OWL moves Offstage.)***

**Fox:** Whatever.

### Scene 2: “SOUR GRAPES”

**Fox:** Time **now** for a **li**ttle snack! A nice breakfast is just what the doctor ordered. Mmmmmm! Mmmmmm! Look at those ripe, juicy grapes! A nutritious and healthy snack! I’ll just reach up and grab a few. ***(The Fox tries to grab the grapes, but can’t reach them****)* Oooo-kay! Got to put a little jump to that!

**Tortoise:** ***(noticing the Fox’s attempts)*** Having problems?

**Fox:** ***(walking up to the Tortoise who is slowly crossing the stage. The Fox is annoyed.)*** Listen pokester, I don’t need any snide remarks from a loser like you!

**Tortoise:** We’ll see who’s the loser.

**Fox:** ***(sarcastically)*** Why don’t you take the bus! ***(to the audience)*** Time to get

serious.

**Goat:** ***(entering, staring at the Fox’s every move)*** What are you doing, Fox?

**Fox:** ***(sarcastically)*** Practicing my ballet exercises.

**Goat:** ***(rather stupidly)*** Oooo-ooh.

**Fox:** ***(shaking his head, hands on hips)*** I’m **try**ing to get my breakfast. ***(Goat watches the Fox’s every move.)*** Do - you - mind?! You’re making me nervous!

**Goat:** ***(shaking his head)*** You’ll never reach them.

**Fox:** When I want your opinion, I’ll ask for it. Now **butt** out!

**Goat:** ***(asking the audience)*** Do you think he’ll get those grapes? ***(The Goat***

***looks at the Fox, then turns his head back to the audience, shaking it and saying with a goat-like sound)*** Naaaaaa.

**Hare:** ***(bounding Onstage & shouting)*** Hey, now!

**Fox:** ***(falling down)*** AAAAAhhhhhhh! I nearly broke my leg!

**Hare:** What are you doing?

**Fox:** See those grapes? I was trying to get them for breakfast until **you** made

me fall. But…you know, now that I think about it, they’re probably sour anyway.

**Hare:** They look pretty good to me. What’s the matter? Can’t reach them?

**Fox:** Don’t be ridiculous! I could get them if I **really** wanted them. But why

should I waste my time and energy, when I know they won’t be worth the effort?!

**Hare & Goat:** ***(to the audience)*** Sour grapes!

**Fox: *(indignantly***) Ve-ry funny! ***(The Fox & Goat exit, opposite sides of the stage. The FOX storms off, insulted & annoyed.)***

**Hare:** ***(looking around and seeing no one)*** What? Nobody here to see my big finish? I guess I’ll take a little nap then. Winning’s no fun without an audience. ***(HARE EXITS. LIGHTS change and Mr. & Mrs. Arisenow take their places with ANDROCLES.)***

### Scene 3: “ANDROCLES AND THE LION”

**Mrs. Arisenow:** Androcles! This grape juice is too warm. Bring me a colder goblet!

**Androcles:** Yes, mistress.

**Mr. Arisenow:** Oh, and bring my pedicure set. My toe nails need a **good** clipping.

**Androcles:** Yes, master. ***(ANDROCLES EXITS. Then elaborately sneaks around the front of the stage, pantomiming running away.)***

**Mr. Arisenow:** ***(to Mr. A.)*** That Androcles is such a dunce!

**Mrs. Arisenow:** You really **must** speak to the Emperor about the quality of the slaves he’s been capturing lately.

**Mr. Arisenow:** ***(becoming impatient)*** Now, **where** can he be? Androcles?!

**Mrs. Arisenow:** Androcles! ***(They exit. Looking for him)***

**Lion:** ***(Enter the Lion, dramatically. It is the***