

This is a translation of a fable told by a French poet, Jean de La Fontaine.

The Lion beaten by the Man

A man displayed a picture
In which the artist had shown
A lion of immense stature
By a single man o'erthrown.
The audience started to cheer.
A passing lion heard their screams.
"I will admit," he said, "that it seems
We must grant you victory here;
But the artist may have deceived you;
The truth he could freely taint.
The opposite could just as well be true
If my brothers knew how to paint."

Glossary

o'erthrown	- defeated
stature	- height of, size
taint	- infect, corrupt
translation	- a change into the words of another language

Around the World

A myth from Mali

A fable from France

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EARS, EYES, LEGS AND ARMS

Once, long, long ago, different parts of the human body were quite separate and had very little to do with each other. However, one day, the Legs met the Arms and they agreed to go hunting together. On the way, they met the Ears and the Eyes and it was decided that they should join forces.

As they crept through the forest, the Ears suddenly said, "Shh, we can hear an animal approaching!" In a short while, the Eyes whispered, "It's an antelope - just off to the right - there it is!"

The Legs chased the antelope into the Arms, who promptly killed it. The Arms waved in triumph, but when the Legs, Ears and Eyes demanded their share of the meat the Arms said, "No chance! We killed it, it's all ours."

"You couldn't have killed it if we hadn't chased it towards you," said the Legs angrily.

"And you couldn't have chased it if we hadn't told you where it was," pointed out the Eyes, glinting with determination.

"Well, if we hadn't heard it in the first place," said the Ears sweetly, "there wouldn't be any meat to share - so we should have most of it!"

A furious quarrel broke out until a mosquito, who had been listening with interest, advised them to go to seek judgement from a wise old Chief who lived nearby. The Arms carried the antelope and the mosquito led the way.

The wise old Chief listened patiently as the Ears, Eyes, Legs and Arms noisily made their claims; then he ordered the meat to be cooked. When it was ready, the Chief sat down and ate every scrap himself. Then he leaned back and looked sternly at the body parts.

"You are all greedy, selfish and stupid," he said, "and I have punished you today by eating every scrap of your meat. Your punishment for ever and ever is to be joined together so that you will have to learn to help each other and share the good things in life."

So the parts of the body were joined together and had to live in harmony. They were furious with the wise old Chief but they were also afraid of him so they channelled their anger towards the mosquito who had led them to their punishment.

And that is why, even today, when the ears hear the whine of a mosquito, the eyes look for it, the legs chase round after it while the arms flail and slap at it.

1. Look at pages 2-3.
Find a phrase that shows that the Eyes were not prepared to give up their share of the meat.

2. Why didn't the body parts attack wise old Chief?

3. Give two reasons why the wise old Chief joined the body parts together?

i) _____

ii) _____

4. What lesson do you think the mosquito should have learned from this adventure? Explain your answer fully.

5. Look at page 4.

In your own words, describe what was in the picture.

6. Explain the meaning of the last two lines.

7. How could an artist 'taint' the truth?

8. Suggest a moral for this fable.

9. In the glossary, why are the words listed in that particular order?

Olympic stadium, the National Gardens in addition to lots of other landmarks. We used the map in the guidebook to help us pick out the significant places and the information in the guidebook to find out all about them.

After that we went up some really slippery steps to the rock of Areopagos. We could see even more from there. Mum said that people used to gather here to listen to speakers. We were really tired by this time, and it was beginning to get hot so we descended the hill into the Ancient Agora. There were lots of cafés, so we all collapsed into one and had an exquisite cold drink! It was a great day out.



4

Athens, Cradle of Civilisation

Greece is an exceptionally mountainous country – over eighty percent of it is hills or mountains. It also has over two thousand islands. The capital city is Athens, which stands on the plain of Attica. It is named after the goddess Athena, and is one of the world's oldest cities. It is known as 'the cradle of Western Civilisation' because so many thinkers, writers and politicians of the ancient world were born there. You still get a sense of the city's history from ancient monuments and works of art. The most famous of all is the Parthenon on the Acropolis. The city also has many Roman monuments, as well as monuments from other times.

Athens has been popular with travellers since ancient times, and it still is, despite the problems with air pollution. It has many hotels and restaurants, three major football clubs as well as other sports, including beach volleyball and windsurfing. Athens was the host city of the first modern-day Olympic Games in 1896, and in 2004 it staged the Olympic Games again. There are so many wonderful attractions and places to see in this beautiful city that there is sure to be something for everyone. Whether you are looking for thrills and excitement, history and culture or parks and gardens, you will not have to look far.

1

Top Recommendations

Attraction	Summary	Amenities	Price
Attika Zoological Park	Opened in 2000, this zoo is home to over 270 species of bird. It also keeps kangaroos, llamas, lynx, reptiles and other small animals.	Signs in English and Greek Children's Play Area Café and Picnic Areas Education Centre	Adults: 11.00€ Children 3-12: 9.00€ Under 3s: Free Disabled: Free
National Archaeological Museum	This is the largest museum in Greece. It has many fantastic collections. It is usually very crowded. You may need several visits to absorb it all.	Café Museum Guides Disabled toilets	6.00€ (adults) 3.00€ (concessions)
Acropolis	Citadel of ancient Athens; great views, many monuments.	Guides available Acropolis Museum	7€ for adults Free for under 18s 3€ for students
Panathenaic Stadium (Kallimarmaro)	This stadium hosted the first modern-day Olympic Games of 1896. It stands on the site of the original stadium, which was built almost 2300 years ago.	Toilets Guidebook available	Free; you will have to pay to watch events
Sightseeing Bus	Begins and ends at the National Archaeological Museum. Visits most important sites.	Air conditioned. You can get on and off when you like. Every 30 minutes.	5€ – valid for 24 hours

2

The Acropolis

When we were in Greece, Mum wanted to go to the Acropolis. She said we'd have to go really early because it would get extremely hot and humid in the afternoon. It opened at 8a.m.! We walked up there – it wasn't too bad, and we didn't have much to carry because you're not allowed to take bags onto the Acropolis. We had a camera, sunscreen, guidebook and cash! There were guides who offered to give us a tour, but we had an excellent guidebook so we decided to go it alone. After some steps, we were at the entrance. Through the entrance we could see a tiny temple to Nike Athena. I didn't realise that Nike means victory in Greek. From there we could see right over to the various islands set in the sparkling, shimmering sea in addition to the majestic backdrop of mountains that surrounded us. It was wonderful!

Then we went to look at the Parthenon. According to the guidebook, it is over 2500 years old. It is just enormous – even larger than I expected. Over the years it has been used as a temple, a church and a mosque at different times but it was badly damaged about 300 years ago.

There is a flag on the Acropolis. We stood by it, and we could see practically all of Athens, the temples, the

3

1. Why was the city of Athens given that name?

2. Give *three* reasons why tourists may visit Athens.

3. Name *three* facts you read about the country of Greece in the first paragraph.

4. Why do you think air pollutions might be a problem for tourists?

5. Look at page 2

Look at the section entitled 'Top Recommendations'. Why is this information presented in a table?

6. From the table, choose an attraction you would enjoy. Explain your choice fully.

7. Look at page 3-4

Why did the writer leave early to visit the Acropolis?

8. Why do you think visitors are not allowed to take bags onto the Acropolis?

Extract 2

May

Tio Armando has come to live with us. He is the brother of my grandmother, so he is my great-uncle. I call my uncle my tio. My grandmother, Abuelita, is wearing black for someone this year. We have a big family. For her, there is always someone to mourn. Tio Armando says that when you have a big family there is always someone to celebrate.

June

I had not noticed Tio Armando's ring before. It is a silver ring. He made it himself. Thin bands of silver twine and twine together until they seem to be one band. Tio Armando said that this is the way people's lives are, twining together until one life is part of another life, one person is part of another person. He was making it for Tia Amalia, his wife, but she died before it was finished. He said that Amalia had taught him a wonderful secret. "I wonder what it is," I said. But he just smiled at me and said, "Later, querida, another time." So I don't know what the secret is.

July

It is a bad time. Tio Armando has died. My tears are stuck deep inside me and I cannot cry, but that is all I want to do. Last night, when I went to bed, I could not sleep. I thought about the things Tio Armando had talked about. It's true that he's gone, but he will never really leave me. I know the secret now: he will always be with me, just as Tia Amalia was always with Tio Armando. Mama says I am to have the ring.

4

Another Time, Another Place

Extract 1 is from the African legend of Aio, who bravely went to the dark kingdom of the dead to beg the Ancestors for rain.

Extract 2 is from a story, told monthly by a young girl, of how the wisdom of an old man altered the lives of a Mexican-American family.

1

Extract 1

The people of the village gathered together at the end of the dry season. After they had planted the new crops they danced and sang in honour of their Ancestors.

And they sang the song of Aio the Rainmaker:
How he visited their Ancestors,
And how they sent rain to their children.

Many years ago, they sang, but the rain did not fall at the end of the dry season, so the new crops died, and the river turned into dust. The people were so thirsty, they begged Aio the Rainmaker to make the rain.

"All the animals are dying.
The leopard and antelope lie all day in the shade of the baobab tree.
All the animals in the forest are still and silent,
Even the python and scorpion are thirsty.
Go up to the high rocks and speak to the Ancestors, Aio.
Ask them to send us rain, Aio,
Send us rain or we shall die."

Aio the Rainmaker went up to the high rocks.
He called to the Ancestors in their dark kingdom,
He danced to the rhythm of the far-off drums,
He told the Ancestors that the people would die if there was no rain.

Aio danced and imitated the leopard, the cunning leopard
Aio danced as if he were the antelope who leaps and runs
"All the animals on the grassland are still,
All the animals in the forest are silent.

2

The monkeys in the trees sit in silence all day long,
Even the frogs sing no more in the evening.
Ancestors, what is left for us?"

Aio's song was so sorrowful that the Ancestors came out of their dark kingdom. They crowded the sky and made it dark and stormy.

"Aio, we hear your song
And we will send rain to our children.
What will they give us in return?
What will our children give us?"

"Ancestors, if you send rain
to your children,
they will give you the first fruit
of every harvest,
the first mouthful
of every meal,
the first taste
of every drink.
They will remember you
every day."

So the rain fell.

The forest was green and the leaves shone darkly and the people of the village listened to the words of Aio the Rainmaker and that is why they dance and sing.

3

1. Look at pages 2-3

What do the villagers want the Ancestors to send?

2. Why do you think the villagers are so concerned about the animals?

3. Who, or what, are the Ancestors?

4. Explain the bargain Aio made with the Ancestors.

5. A) The first three paragraphs are narrative, not part of the song. Find one other *full* paragraph that is not part of the song.

B) How can you tell?

6. Look at page 4.

Explain the difference in attitude of Abuelita and Tio Armando.

7. To what did Tio Armando liken the ring?

8. Why did Tio Armando not give the ring to his wife?

9. What was the wonderful secret?

The Forest
Next to Aio's village
Africa

Dear Aio the Rainmaker,

Thank you for persuading the Ancestors to make it rain. However, as it has now been raining (very heavily!) for the last 60 days and nights, we, the animals, would like to suggest that perhaps you overdid it.

There isn't a dry feather or patch of fur in the forest and the grassland grazers are complaining that they need flippers rather than the hoofs with which they have been provided.

We understand that you charmed the Ancestors by performing a dance in which you imitated the graceful actions of the leopard and antelope. My friend, Spot, wishes me to inform you that it is now impossible to leap anywhere as he is permanently knee-deep in mud.

We ask you, Aio, is this fair? Please return to the Ancestors and tell them that enough is enough and that they have made a slight mistake in their how-much-water-is-good-for-the-land calculations.

It is possible, of course, that the Ancestors may not appreciate this information but we have every confidence in your powers of persuasion. We look forward to seeing the sun and drying out VERY SOON!

Yours sincerely,

Mungo Monkey

4

Complaint and Persuasion

Previously, Aio the Rainmaker had visited the Ancestors to seek their help in bringing rain to the dry countryside. Aio was successful in his mission.

Page 2 contains an article from an animals' newspaper reporting on the conditions following Aio's plea to the Ancestors.

Page 3 shows a poster circulated by Mungo Monkey.

Page 4 shows a letter sent to Aio by Mungo Monkey.

1

Jungle Times

FLOODED FOREST FURY

For the last two months, rain has fallen in torrents in the area surrounding Aio the Rainmaker's village. Local animals, drenched and despairing, have apparently called a meeting to discuss the issue.

Dance disaster

"It's all Aio's fault," said Mungo Monkey, elected Chairperson of the Crisis Committee. "He obviously got carried away with his dance and misled the Ancestors. Our fields and forest are flooded and, if something isn't done soon, there'll be a disaster."

Rainmaker's denial

Aio was unavailable for comment yesterday but his wife, attractive 25-year-old

Ayesha, was furious at the criticism. "Those animals are never satisfied," she screamed at our reporter. "They were miserable without the rain and now they're miserable with it! My husband was just doing his job. That Mungo's a real troublemaker!"

Frog frolic

Not all animals are unhappy with the unusual climatic conditions. "It's great!" said one frog who refused to give his name. "Aio rules OK!"

The Crisis Committee will be meeting tomorrow night in the forest clearing, one hour before sundown. Mungo is quoted as saying, "attendance is vital!"

2

Important meeting!

Calling all animals!

Are you tired of being wet?
Do something about it -
come to the clearing in the
forest tonight!

Tell us what **YOU** think should
be done - **YOUR** opinion counts!

United we stand!

3

1. Look at pages 2-3.

Why is 'FLOODED FOREST FURY' in large type?

2. What are 'Dance disaster', 'Rainmaker's denial' and 'Frog frolic'?

3. Why do you think that the frog refused to give his name?

4. What is Ayesha's opinion of the animals?

5. Suggest two ways in which Mungo's poster is effective.

i) _____

ii) _____

6. Look at page 4

What are grassland grazers unhappy about?

7. What did Aio do to persuade the Ancestors to help him to bring rain?

8. What does Mungo think Aio should do now?

9. Why is VERY SOON written in capital letters?

Stevie Scared

Stevie Scared, scared of the dark,
Scared of rats, of dogs that bark,
Scared of his fat dad, scared of his mother,
Scared of his sis and his tattooed brother,
Scared of tall girls, scared of boys,
Scared of ghosts and sudden noise,
Scared of spiders, scared of bees,
Scared of standing under trees,
Scared of shadows, scared of adders,
Scared of the devil, scared of ladders,
Scared of hailstones, scared of rain,
Scared of falling down the drain,
Stevie Scared, scared of showing
He's so scared of people knowing,
Spends his whole time kicking, fighting,
Shoving, pinching, butting, biting,
Bashing little kids about
(Just in case they find him out).

Rachel Edwards

4

Don't Hurt Me!

Shame

There's a girl at school
We teased today
Made jokes, called her names.
My friends all laughed,
Called it harmless fun.
Said it was just a game.

Now I'm at home
Feeling horrid inside,
Long gone that thoughtless grin.
How will I face her
Tomorrow at school?
I wish I hadn't joined in.

Tracey Blance

1

School Bully

Horrid Henry Atkins
was the bully of our school
always causing trouble
and acting like a fool
the teachers couldn't handle him
his parents didn't care
he made our lives a misery
it wasn't very fair.

Then one day it happened
Horrid Henry met his mark
the day he tried to bully
Paddy Watson in the park
but Paddy was not having it
he'd taken all he could
and with a punch right on the chin
left Atkins in the mud.

All the people in the park
cheered and laughed with joy
to see someone get the better
of our horrid bully boy
So Horrid Henry Atkins
was the bully of our school
but thanks to Paddy Watson
he's now just a stupid fool.

John Churchill



2

3

1. What is the subject of all three poems?

2. Look at the poem Shame.

Why do you think the narrator of Shame joined in the teasing?

3. Why has the poet called this poem 'Shame'?

4. Look at the poem School Bully.

'the teachers couldn't handle him'

Why do you think this is?

5. What do you think Paddy Watson was feeling when he met Henry in the park?

6. What do you think is the author's purpose in writing this poem?

7. Look at the poem Stevie Scared.

What do you think was the first cause of Stevie's fear?

8. Why does Stevie bully other children?

9. Why do you think the author has given such a long list of Stevie's fears?
