Storyland Classics

FREE STORY GUIDE

An Aesop fable, from The Æsop for Children (1919)



- ✦ Meet the Author
- ✦ The Big Idea & Try It
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Standards
- ✦ Story Map
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Who Did It? & Feelings
- ✦ Answer Key

Ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K to Grade 2 ✦ Aligned to Common Core

This cover is for your screen. Print from page 2 to save ink.

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to Use This Guide

This free guide goes with the Storyland Classics read-aloud of “The Dove and the Ant.” Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE STORY

An Ant falls into a brook and cannot reach the bank. A kind Dove drops a blade of straw beside it, and the Ant floats safely to shore. Soon after, the Ant sees a man about to throw a stone at the Dove. The Ant stings the man on the heel, he misses, and the Dove flies away to safety. The moral: a kindness is never wasted.

SKILL FOCUS

Fables and morals: a short animal story that teaches a lesson

WATCH AND READ ALONG

Scan the code to watch the read-aloud and read the full story, or visit storylandclassics.com/dove-ant-guide. *The Æsop for Children* (1919), illustrated by Milo Winter. Public domain.

A simple routine

1. **Day 1.** Watch the read-aloud together, then fill in the Story Map.
2. **Day 2.** Meet the author, then use Let’s Talk and The Big Idea.
3. **Day 3.** Learn the words with the word match, word sort and word search.
4. **Day 4.** Put the story in order, then perform it with voices.

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Standards

Every activity is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 2. Codes appear at the bottom of each page, and the full table is on the last page.

Younger children

Children who aren’t writing yet can answer out loud or tell a grown-up what to write.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE AUTHOR

Aesop

Ancient Greece, about 2,500 years ago

Aesop is remembered as a storyteller in ancient Greece more than 2,500 years ago. Little is known for sure about his life, and some people think many storytellers' fables were gathered under his name. His fables are short stories, usually about animals that talk and act like people, and each one ends with a lesson called a moral. Our fables come from *The Æsop for Children* (1919), with pictures by Milo Winter.

Questions About the Author

1. Where did Aesop live?

2. What is a fable?

3. What is a moral? Can you think of one you already know?

Name _____ Date _____

STORY MAP

The Dove and the Ant



Look at the picture from the read-aloud. Who do you see? Then fill in the story map.

Characters

Who is in the story?

Setting

Where and when does it happen?

Problem

What goes wrong?

Solution

How is it fixed? How does it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Dove and the Ant

Young children can answer out loud. Older children can write their answers.

REMEMBER

1. What happened to the Ant at the brook?

2. How did the Dove help the Ant?

3. How did the Ant help the Dove?

THINK

4. Why do you think the Dove helped a tiny ant?

5. How can someone very small help someone big?

CONNECT

6. Tell about a time someone helped you, and you helped them back.

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the fable back in your own words. How did the Dove and the Ant help each other?

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Name _____ Date _____

THE BIG IDEA

What Does the Story Teach?

THE MORAL

"A kindness is never wasted." When you help someone, your kindness can come back to you.

What does this mean to you? Tell or write about a time it was true in your life.

Try It

SKILL FOCUS

Fables and morals: a short animal story that teaches a lesson

Draw two friends helping each other, like the Dove and the Ant. Write what each one does to help.

Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

dove	the land at the edge of a stream
ant	to poke with a sharp point that hurts
brook	a gentle white or gray bird
bank	feeling sorry for someone
straw	a small stream
pity	the back of your foot
sting	a tiny insect
heel	a dry stalk of grass

Word Sort: Big or Small?

Write each word in the right box.

ant · man · dove · blade of straw · stone · wood · brook · heel

Small	Big

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Dove and the Ant

Find the words from the story. Words go across (left to right) and down (top to bottom). Circle each word, then check it off.

N	K	J	G	E	H	B	L	S	A
H	E	G	S	I	N	H	I	T	P
H	H	J	C	G	J	W	F	O	D
F	P	Y	L	C	T	H	H	N	O
U	B	O	N	S	H	F	A	E	V
V	M	A	L	T	S	T	P	H	E
D	A	O	Y	R	M	B	A	N	K
S	N	R	K	A	F	W	O	O	D
K	A	F	K	W	U	O	V	E	Y
W	B	A	N	T	B	R	O	O	K

WORD BANK

- ☐ DOVE
- ☐ ANT
- ☐ BROOK
- ☐ STRAW
- ☐ BANK
- ☐ MAN
- ☐ STONE
- ☐ WOOD

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Name _____ Date _____

CHECK YOUR READING

Yes or No?

Read each sentence about the story. Circle **Yes** if it is true. Circle **No** if it is not.

1. The Ant fell into a brook. Yes No
2. The Dove dropped a blade of straw. Yes No
3. The Ant floated to shore on a leaf. Yes No
4. A man wanted to throw a stone at the Dove. Yes No
5. The Ant bit the man on the nose. Yes No
6. The Dove flew away to safety. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the story in ABC order.

dove · brook · straw · ant · wood

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each sentence. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ The Ant floats safely to shore.
- ◯ The Ant falls into the brook.
- ◯ The Dove flies away to safety.
- ◯ The Dove drops a blade of straw.
- ◯ The Ant stings the man on the heel.
- ◯ A man gets ready to throw a stone.

Retell the Story

Use the order words to tell the story in your own words. Say it out loud, or write it.

First, _____

Next, _____

Then, _____

Last, _____

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Name _____ Date _____

CHARACTERS

Who Did It?

Read each sentence. Write who did it. Use the name bank to help.

the Ant | the Dove | the man

fell into a brook _____

dropped a blade of straw _____

got ready to throw a stone _____

stung a heel _____

flew to a distant wood _____

How Did the Ant Feel?

Write a feeling word for each part of the story. Use the word bank, or choose your own.

scared | thankful | safe | brave | happy | worried | proud

When…	the Ant felt…
she fell into the brook	
she saw the straw	
she reached the shore	
she saw the man with a stone	
she stung the man	
the Dove flew to safety	

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Three readers take the parts. We added a few words for the Dove and the Ant so they can talk. Act out the splash, the straw and the sting!

NARRATOR	A Dove saw an Ant fall into a brook.
ANT	“Help! I can’t reach the bank!”
DOVE	“Hold on to this straw, little Ant!”
NARRATOR	The Ant floated safely to shore. Soon after, the Ant saw a man getting ready to throw a stone at the Dove.
ANT	“Not my friend!” (Sting!)
NARRATOR	The man missed, and the Dove flew to safety.
EVERYONE	“A kindness is never wasted!”

My Favorite Part

My favorite part is _____

_____

because _____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Dove and the Ant

Trace the gray words, then write them on your own on the empty lines. Tall letters touch the top line; small letters reach the dotted line.

A kindness is never wasted.

A kindness is never wasted.

A kindness is never wasted.

The Ant helped the Dove.

The Ant helped the Dove.

The Ant helped the Dove.

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Story Map

Characters: the Dove, the Ant, the man. Setting: a brook in the woods. Problem: first the Ant is drowning, then the Dove is in danger. Solution: the Dove saves the Ant with a straw, and the Ant saves the Dove with a sting.

Let's Talk

1. She fell in and could not reach the bank. 2. The Dove dropped a blade of straw beside her. 3. She stung the man's heel so he missed. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Search

N	K	J	G	E	H	B	L	**S**	A
H	E	G	S	I	N	H	I	**T**	P
H	H	J	C	G	J	W	F	**O**	**D**
F	P	Y	L	C	T	H	H	**N**	**O**
U	B	O	N	**S**	H	F	A	**E**	**V**
V	**M**	A	L	**T**	S	T	P	H	**E**
D	**A**	O	Y	**R**	M	**B**	**A**	**N**	**K**
S	**N**	R	K	**A**	F	**W**	**O**	**O**	**D**
K	A	F	K	**W**	U	O	V	E	Y
W	B	**A**	**N**	**T**	**B**	**R**	**O**	**O**	**K**

Word Match & Sort

dove: a gentle white or gray bird · ant: a tiny insect · brook: a small stream · bank: the land at the edge of a stream · straw: a dry stalk of grass · pity: feeling sorry for someone · sting: to poke with a sharp point that hurts · heel: the back of your foot. Sort: Answers may vary. Small: ant, blade of straw, stone, heel. Big: man, dove (big next to an ant!), wood, brook.

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: ant, brook, dove, straw, wood.

Put It in Order

the Ant falls into the brook → the Dove drops a blade of straw → the Ant floats to shore → a man gets ready to throw a stone → the Ant stings his heel → the Dove flies to safety.

Who Did It?

1. the Ant · 2. the Dove · 3. the man · 4. the Ant · 5. the Dove

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Float a leaf or straw in a bowl of water and see what it can carry.
- Make a class "kindness boomerang" chart: write a kindness given and a kindness received.
- Read it with The Lion and the Mouse, which has the same moral.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Dove and the Ant ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

STANDARDS	WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE	WHERE IN THIS GUIDE
RL.K.1 RL.1.1 RL.2.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Let's Talk and Yes or No?; Let's Talk
RL.K.2 RL.1.2 RL.2.2	Retell stories and poems, including key details, and show understanding of their message.	Put It in Order and Retell; Put It in Order and Retell; The Big Idea; The Big Idea
RL.K.3 RL.1.3 RL.2.3	Identify and describe characters, settings and major events.	Story Map and Character Feelings; Character Feelings
RL.K.4	Understand words and phrases, including rhyme, rhythm and words that appeal to the senses.	Word Match
RL.K.6 RL.1.6 RL.2.6	Identify who is speaking and use a different voice for each character when reading aloud.	Meet the Author; Who Said It?; Read It With Voices
RL.K.7 RL.1.7	Use illustrations and words together to describe characters, setting and events.	Story Map picture
RL.K.10 RL.1.10	Engage in group reading of poems and stories with purpose and understanding.	Reading the story together
RF.K.1b RF.K.1d	Understand the organization of print (left to right, top to bottom).	Word Search; ABC Order
RF.K.3c RF.1.3	Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Word Search
RF.1.4b RF.2.4b	Read aloud with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression.	Read It With Voices
SL.K.1 SL.1.1	Take part in conversations about the text with classmates and adults.	Let's Talk (discussion)
SL.K.2	Ask and answer questions about a text read aloud or presented through media.	Read-aloud video (QR code)
SL.K.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Try It (drawing to add detail)
SL.K.6	Speak audibly and express ideas clearly.	Read It With Voices
L.K.1a L.1.1 L.1.1a	Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words.	Handwriting Practice; ABC Order
L.K.2a	Use capital letters and end punctuation.	Handwriting checklist
L.K.4 L.1.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases.	Word Match
L.K.5a	Sort words into categories, connect words to real life and act out shades of meaning.	Word Sort
W.K.1 W.1.1	Use drawing and writing to share an opinion and give a reason.	My Favorite Part
W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.	Try It
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.

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