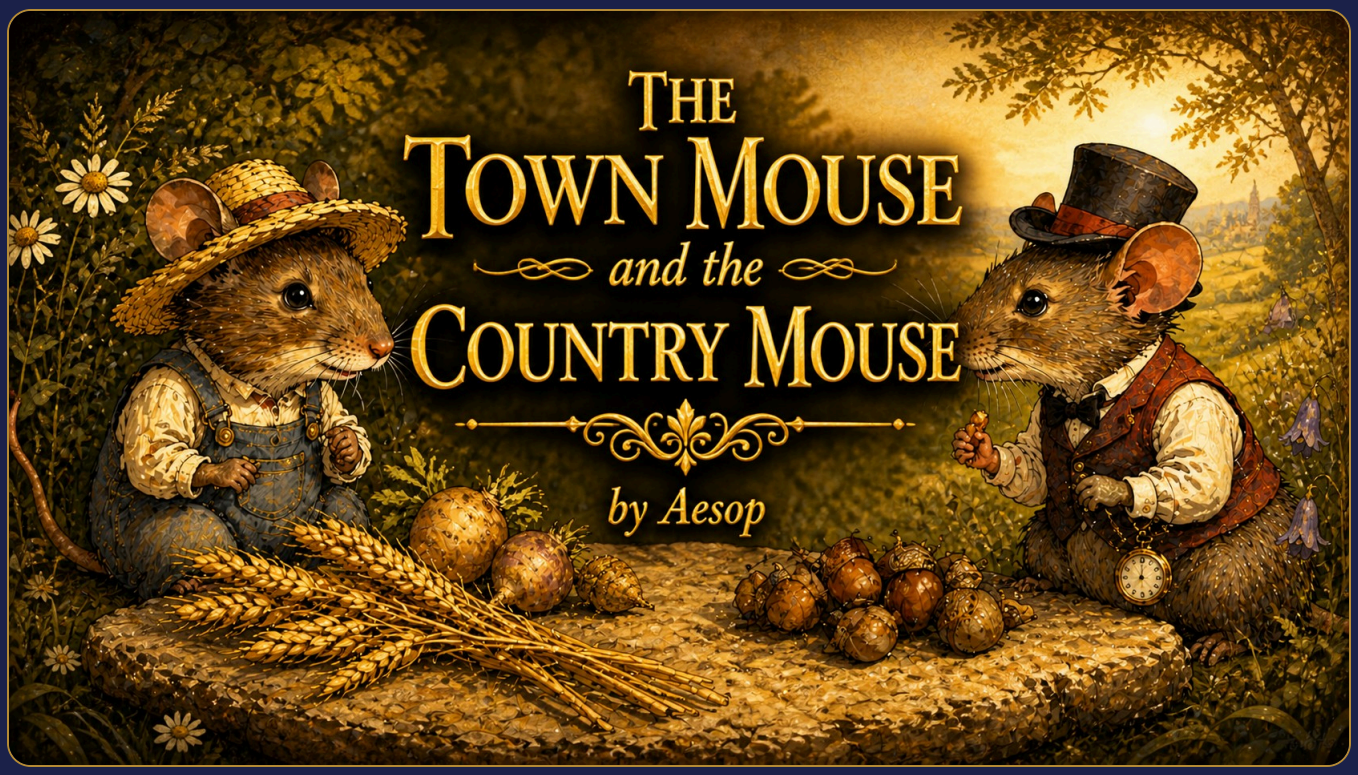
Storyland Classics

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 Town Mouse and the Country Mouse." Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE STORY

A Town Mouse visits her relative in the country, where lunch is wheat stalks, roots and acorns. She tells the Country Mouse all about her fine life in the city, so the next day they go to the Town Mouse's mansion. A grand feast is on the table, but a Cat scratches at the door, and then servants and the House Dog come in. The frightened Country Mouse grabs her carpet bag and umbrella and hurries home to her plain, peaceful life.

SKILL FOCUS

Compare and contrast: life in the town and life in the country

WATCH AND READ ALONG

Scan the code to watch the read-aloud and read the full story, or visit storylandclassics.com/town-mouse-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.

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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 Town Mouse and the Country Mouse



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 Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

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

REMEMBER

1. What did the Country Mouse serve for lunch?

2. What food was on the table in the town?

3. What scared the mice at the feast?

THINK

4. Why did the Country Mouse go home?

5. Which mouse do you think was happier? Why?

CONNECT

6. Would you rather live in the town or the country? What would you like about it?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the fable back in your own words. How was the town different from the country?

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Name _____ Date _____

THE BIG IDEA

What Does the Story Teach?

THE MORAL

"Poverty with security is better than plenty in the midst of fear and uncertainty." A simple, safe life can be better than lots of fancy things and being afraid.

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

Try It

SKILL FOCUS

Compare and contrast: life in the town and life in the country

Draw a line down the middle of a page. Write or draw something you would like about living in the town on one side and in the country on the other.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

relative	a very big, fancy house
acorns	ran with quick, small steps
hedgerow	someone in your family
mansion	sweet baked treats
banquet	a row of bushes along a field
pastries	plain and easy, not fancy
scurried	nuts that grow on oak trees
simple	a big, fancy meal

Word Sort: Town or Country?

Write each word in the right box.

acorns · pastries · a cozy nest · a mansion · a Cat at the door · roots · cheeses · peace and quiet

Town	Country

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ MOUSE
- ☐ TOWN
- ☐ CAT
- ☐ DOG
- ☐ CHEESE
- ☐ NEST
- ☐ ACORNS
- ☐ FEAST

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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 Town Mouse visited the country first. Yes No
2. The Country Mouse served pastries. Yes No
3. The Town Mouse lived in a mansion. Yes No
4. A Cat scratched at the door. Yes No
5. The Country Mouse ate lots of cheese. Yes No
6. The Country Mouse went back home. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the story in ABC order.

town cat mouse acorns feast

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 mice find a feast in the mansion.
- ◯ The Town Mouse visits the country.
- ◯ The Country Mouse hurries home.
- ◯ A Cat mews and scratches at the door.
- ◯ The mice go to the town together.
- ◯ The Country Mouse serves roots and acorns.

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 Cat | the Country Mouse | the House Dog | the Town Mouse

served wheat stalks, roots, and acorns _____

talked about her life in the city _____

mewed loudly and scratched at the door _____

came in after the servants _____

picked up her carpet bag and umbrella _____

How Did the Country Mouse Feel?

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

happy | curious | excited | hungry | scared | relieved | peaceful

When…	the Country Mouse felt…
she shared her simple lunch	
she dreamed of the city	
she saw the feast	
the Cat scratched at the door	
the Dog came in	
she got back home	

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Three readers take the parts. Give the Town Mouse a fancy voice and the Country Mouse a plain, friendly one!

NARRATOR	A Town Mouse once visited a relative who lived in the country. For lunch the Country Mouse served wheat stalks, roots, and acorns.
TOWN MOUSE	"You should see my home in the city! Come with me tomorrow."
NARRATOR	In the town they found sweetmeats, jellies, pastries and cheeses. Then a Cat mewed loudly and scratched at the door!
NARRATOR	The mice scurried to a hiding place. Then in came the servants, followed by the House Dog.
COUNTRY MOUSE	"You may have luxuries and dainties that I have not, but I prefer my plain food and simple life in the country."
EVERYONE	"Better a simple, safe life than plenty and fear!"

My Favorite Part

My favorite part is _____

_____

because _____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

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.

Home sweet home.

Home sweet home.

Home sweet home.

I like my simple life.

I like my simple life.

I like my simple life.

☐ 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 Town Mouse, the Country Mouse, the Cat, the servants, the House Dog. Setting: a nest in a country hedgerow, then a mansion in the city. Problem: the town has fancy food but is full of danger. Solution: the Country Mouse goes home to her plain, peaceful life.

Let's Talk

1. Wheat stalks, roots and acorns, with cold water. 2. Sweetmeats, jellies, pastries and cheeses. 3. A Cat at the door, then the servants and the House Dog. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Search

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

Word Match & Sort

relative: someone in your family · acorns: nuts that grow on oak trees · hedgerow: a row of bushes along a field · mansion: a very big, fancy house · banquet: a big, fancy meal · pastries: sweet baked treats · scurried: ran with quick, small steps · simple: plain and easy, not fancy. Sort: Town: pastries, a mansion, a Cat at the door, cheeses. Country: acorns, a cozy nest, roots, peace and quiet.

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: acorns, cat, feast, mouse, town.

Put It in Order

the Town Mouse visits the country → the Country Mouse serves roots and acorns → they go to the town → they find a feast → a Cat scratches at the door → the Country Mouse hurries home.

Who Did It?

1. the Country Mouse · 2. the Town Mouse · 3. the Cat · 4. the House Dog · 5. the Country Mouse

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Make a town-and-country Venn diagram.
- Draw a cozy mouse nest and label what is inside.
- Read Beatrix Potter's The Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse and compare.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse ✦ 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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