

## The Wolf and the Lion

A wolf had stolen a lamb and was carrying it off to his lair to eat it. But his plans were very much changed when he met a lion, who, without making any excuses, took the lamb away from him. The wolf made off to a safe distance and said in a much-injured tone, "You have no right to take my property like that!"

The lion looked back, but as the wolf was too far away to be taught a lesson without too much inconvenience, he said, "**Your** property? Did you buy it, or did the shepherd make you a gift of it? Pray tell me, how did you get it?"

**Moral:** What is won by force can be lost by force.

## The Sheep and the Pig

One day, a shepherd discovered a fat pig in the meadow where his sheep were pastured. He very quickly captured the porker, which squealed at the top of its voice the moment the shepherd laid his hands on it. You would have thought, to hear the loud squealing, that the pig was being cruelly hurt. But in spite of its squeals and struggles to escape, the shepherd tucked his prize under his arm and started off to the butcher's in the marketplace. The sheep in the pasture were much astonished and amused at the pig's behavior and followed the shepherd and his charge to the pasture gate. "What makes you squeal like that?" asked one of the sheep. "The shepherd often catches and carries off one of us. But we should feel very much ashamed to make such a terrible fuss about it like you do."

"That is all very well," replied the pig, with a squeal and a frantic kick. "When he catches you, he is only after your wool. But he wants my bacon! Gree-ee-ee!"

**Moral:** It is easy to be brave when there is no danger.

## The Heifer and the Ox

A heifer saw an ox hard at work harnessed to a plow and tormented him with reflections on his unhappy fate in being compelled to labor. Shortly afterwards, at the harvest festival, the owner released the ox from his yoke but bound the heifer with cords and led her away to the altar to be slain in honor of the occasion. The ox saw what was being done and said with a smile to the heifer, "For this you were allowed to live in idleness, because you were presently to be sacrificed."

**Moral:** It's never right to make fun of others.

## The Dove and the Crows

A dove shut up in a cage was boasting of the large number of young ones that she had hatched. A crow, hearing her, said, "My good friend, cease from this unseasonable boasting. The larger the number of your family, the greater your cause of sorrow in seeing them in this prison house."

**Moral:** Every member of a family brings joy and sorrow.

## The Frog and the Ox

"Oh, father," said a little frog to the big one sitting by the side of a pool. "I have seen such a terrible monster! It was as big as a mountain, with horns on its head, and a long tail, and it had hoofs divided in two."

"Tush, child, tush," said the old frog. "That was only Farmer White's ox. It isn't so big either; he may be a little bit taller than I, but I could easily make myself quite as broad; just you see." So the father blew and blew and blew. "Was he as big as that?" he asked.

"Oh, much bigger than that," said the young frog. Again, the old one blew himself up and asked the young one if the ox was as big as that. "Bigger, father, bigger," was the reply.

So the frog took a deep breath and blew and blew and blew and swelled and swelled and swelled. And then he said, "I'm sure the ox is not as big as—" But at this moment, he burst.

**Moral:** Showing off can lead to self-destruction.