

## The Fox and the Stork

The fox one day thought of a plan to amuse himself at the expense of the stork, at whose odd appearance he was always laughing. "You must come and dine with me today," he said to the stork, smiling to himself at the trick he was going to play. The stork gladly accepted the invitation and arrived in good time and with a very good appetite. For dinner, the fox served soup. But it was set out in a very shallow dish, and all the stork could do was to wet the very tip of his bill. Not a drop of soup could he get. But the fox lapped it up easily and, to increase the disappointment of the stork, made a great show of enjoyment. The hungry stork was much displeased at the trick, but he was a calm, even-tempered fellow and saw no good in flying into a rage. Instead, not long afterward, he invited the fox to dine with him in turn. The fox arrived promptly and the stork served a fish dinner that had an appetizing smell. But it was served in a tall jar with a very narrow neck. The stork could easily get at the food with his long bill, but all the fox could do was to lick the outside of the jar and sniff at the delicious fragrance.

**Moral:** A person who plays tricks on others should be ready for the same treatment.

## The Lion's Share

A long time ago, the lion, the fox, the jackal, and the wolf agreed to go hunting together, sharing with each other whatever they found. One day, the wolf ran down a stag and immediately called his comrades to divide the spoil. Without being asked, the lion placed himself at the head of the feast to do the carving and, with a great show of fairness, began to count the guests. "One," he said, counting on his claws, "that is myself the lion. Two, that's the wolf; three is the jackal; and the fox makes four." He then very carefully divided the stag into four equal parts. "I am king," he said when he had finished, "so of course I get the first part. This next part falls to me because I am the strongest; and this is mine because I am the bravest." He now began to glare at the others very savagely. "If any of you have any claim to the part that is left," he growled, stretching his claws menacingly, "now is the time to speak up."

**Moral:** The strongest person usually gets their way.

## The Monkeys and Their Mother

The monkey, it is said, has two young ones at each birth. The mother cuddles one and nurtures it with the greatest affection and care but hates and neglects the other. It happened once that the young one that was caressed and loved was smothered by the too-great affection of the mother, while the despised one was nurtured and reared in spite of the neglect to which it was exposed.

**Moral:** The best intentions will not always ensure success.

## The Horse, the Hunter, and the Stag

A quarrel had arisen between the horse and the stag, so the horse came to a hunter to ask for his help in taking revenge on the stag. The hunter agreed but said, "If you desire to conquer the stag, you must permit me to place this piece of iron between your jaws so that I may guide you with these reins and allow this saddle to be placed upon your back so that I may keep steady upon you as we follow after the enemy."

The horse agreed to the conditions, and the hunter soon saddled and bridled him. Then with the aid of the hunter, the horse soon overcame the stag. He said to the hunter, "Now, get off, and remove these things from my mouth and back."

"Not so fast, friend," said the hunter. "I have now got you under bit and spur and prefer to keep you as you are at present."

**Moral:** Once you give something up, you may never get it back.

## The Donkey, the Fox, and the Lion

A donkey and a fox had become close comrades and were constantly in each other's company. While the donkey cropped a fresh bit of greens, the fox would devour a chicken from the neighboring farmyard or a bit of cheese filched from the dairy. One day, the pair unexpectedly met a lion. The donkey was very much frightened, but the fox calmed his fears. "I will talk to him," he said. So the fox walked boldly up to the lion. "Your highness," he said in a low voice so the donkey could not hear him. "I've got a fine scheme in my head. If you promise not to hurt me, I will lead that foolish creature yonder into a pit where he can't get out, and you can feast at your pleasure." The lion agreed and the fox returned to the donkey. "I made him promise not to hurt us," said the fox. "But come, I know a good place to hide till he is gone." So the fox led the donkey into a deep pit. But when the lion saw that the donkey was his for the taking, he first struck down the traitor fox.

**Moral:** It never works out to betray a friend.