

Y3/4 - Term 5 English Home-Learning Week 3

Week 3 Alternative Text - the Town Mouse and The Country Mouse retold by Michael Morpurgo

Week 3 is based on this retelling of the famous fable about the Town Mouse and the Country Mouse by Michael Morpurgo.

A bit of background on fables for parents

What is a fable?

A fable is a story that features animals, plants or forces of nature which are anthropomorphised (given human qualities). A fable always ends with a 'moral'. This is the lesson that is intended to be learnt through reading the story.

One of the most famous fables is *The Hare and the Tortoise*. In this fable, both animals are anthropomorphised in that they can speak and are competing against each other in a race. The arrogant hare stops to sleep halfway through the race because he is convinced he has enough time to do this and then rejoin the race and win it. Meanwhile, the slow but determined tortoise keeps going and wins while the hare is asleep.

Most of our best-known fables are thought to have been written by a man called Aesop, who is believed to have been a slave in Ancient Greece around 550BC.

How do traditional tales and fables differ?

A traditional tale is a story that has been told and re-told for many years, also known as a fairy tale (for example, *Cinderella* or *Little Red Riding Hood*).

How do fables and myths differ?

Both myths and fables are stories, but myths focus on gods and heroes while fables are stories about animals, objects and forces of nature. Myths aimed to explain the world while fables were intended to provide a moral lesson.

Activity 1:

- **Either**, read the story to your child, stopping at various places to check understanding, discuss the characters, predict what might happen next or explain any new vocabulary

- **Or**, let your child read the story to you (but guide them to include the above activities)

Activity 2: Choose one or more from the writing activities which are attached separately on the "Activities to follow up TM and CM" sheet.

Activity 3 Grammar:

Y3: Prepositions

Possible resources:

- BBC Teach clip to explain prepositions:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYd7dg2I-9k&feature=youtu.be>
- This is a song to help remember what a preposition is:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byszemY8PI8>
- BBC Bitesize (this includes a short video):
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/zw38srd>
- Prepositions PowerPoint (this has practice activities)

Worksheets for children to choose from:

- Y3 Missing Prepositions (answers provided)
- Y3 Preposition Detectives (answers provided)
- Y3 Prepositions Sentences (answers provided)
- Y3 Preposition Sort (answers provided)

Y4: Prepositional Phrases

Possible resources:

The first three links recap what a preposition is.

- BBC Teach clip to explain prepositions:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYd7dg2I-9k&feature=youtu.be>
- This is a song to help remember what a preposition is:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byszemY8PI8>
- BBC Bitesize (this includes a short video):
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/zw38srd>
- Prepositional Phrase PowerPoint
- PDF Parent Notes (brief explanation of prepositional phrases)

Worksheets for children to choose from:

- Identify Prepositional Phrases (answers provided)
- A Messy Bedroom (answers provided)
- Prepositional Openers