

Name _____ Date _____

Read the passages.

The Ant and the Dove an adaptation of a fable by Aesop

1. Once upon a time, an ant was extremely thirsty. While he usually drank droplets of water from leaves or puddles, it hadn't rained in the forest in a very long time. The ant knew that he would have to travel to the river for a drink, but he was afraid to go so far alone. But the ant did not want to die of thirst, so he made his way to the river.
2. When the ant reached the river bank, he climbed down and drank the water. Before he knew it, he had slipped and fallen in. The fast current quickly carried him away. *I am going to drown for sure*, he thought.
3. A dove was sitting on a tree branch that was hanging over the water. She saw the ant and knew he was in terrible trouble. *If I don't do something, that poor little ant is going to drown*, she said to herself.
4. She quickly plucked a leaf from the tree and let it fall near the ant. "Grab onto the leaf!" she shouted.
5. The ant grabbed it and pulled himself up onto it.
6. Exhausted, he could barely move. He stretched out on the leaf and fell into a deep sleep. When he woke, the leaf had floated to the safety of the river bank. He climbed off the leaf and crawled up the river bank. "I am safe at last!" he yelled.
7. Then he saw a bird catcher holding a large net. She was sneaking up on the dove! "My friend is in big trouble," said the ant. The ant wanted to yell, but even if he screamed as loud as he could, the dove might not hear his tiny voice.
8. Then he had an idea. He crawled along the ground until he reached the bird catcher. He bit down hard on her foot. "Ouch!" she shouted. "I've been stung!"
9. The dove heard her cries and flew away quickly. The ant had saved the day.

(continue to next passage)

Name _____ Date _____

(continued)

The Serpent and the Eagle an adaptation of a fable by Aesop

1. Once upon a time, an eagle sat perched high in a tree. She was hungry, so she was scanning the ground for her next meal.
2. Just then she saw a large serpent slithering on the forest floor. "That serpent will make a great meal," she said. "It's huge! Perhaps I will even share it with a friend."
3. The eagle flapped her large wings and flew high above the trees. Then she swooped down to the ground like a bolt of lightning. She grabbed the startled serpent in her large claws and flew into the air once again.
4. The eagle did not know that the serpent was strong and had a terrible temper. The serpent became very angry. "You will never eat me!" she shouted and wrapped her heavy body tightly around the eagle's legs. Then she squeezed hard.
5. The eagle cried out in pain. The pain in her legs and the weight of the serpent made it difficult to fly. She crashed to the ground, flapping her wings and rolling in the dirt, trying to free herself of the serpent, but it was no use. The serpent held on tightly.
6. The serpent was just about to bite the eagle and finish her off when she felt a pair of hands pull her off the eagle. She looked up to see a man toss her aside.



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