

# The Goose & the Golden Egg

By: Aesop

*Adapted by Fishtank Staff*

- 1 There was once a Countryman who possessed the most wonderful Goose you can imagine, for every day when he visited the nest, the Goose had laid a beautiful, glittering, golden egg.
- 2 The Countryman took the eggs to market and soon began to get rich. But it was not long before he grew impatient with the Goose because she gave him only a single golden egg a day. He was not getting rich fast enough.
- 3 Then one day, after he had finished counting his money, the idea came to him that he could get all the golden eggs at once by killing the Goose and cutting it open. But when the deed was done, not a single golden egg did he find, and his precious Goose was dead.
- 4 *Those who have plenty want more and so lose all they have.*

Aesop. (n.d.). The goose & the golden egg. Modified by Fishtank Learning, Inc. The fable "The Goose & the Golden Egg" by Aesop (n.d.) is in the public domain.

# The Wolf & the Shepherd

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*Adapted by Fishtank Staff*

- 1 A Wolf, lurking near the Shepherd's hut, saw the Shepherd and his family feasting on a roasted lamb.
- 2 "Aha!" he muttered. "What a great shouting and running about would there have been, had they caught me at just the very thing they are doing with so much enjoyment!"
- 3 *Men often condemn others for what they see no wrong in doing themselves.*

Aesop. (n.d.). The wolf & the shepherd. Modified by Fishtank Learning, Inc. The fable "The Wolf & the Shepherd" by Aesop (n.d.) is in the public domain.

# The Wolf & the Lamb

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*Adapted by Fishtank Staff*

- 1 A stray Lamb stood drinking early one morning on the bank of a woodland stream. That very same morning a hungry Wolf came by farther up the stream, hunting for something to eat. He soon got his eyes on the Lamb. As a rule Mr. Wolf snapped up such delicious morsels without making any bones about it, but this Lamb looked so very helpless and innocent that the Wolf felt he ought to have some kind of an excuse for taking its life.
- 2 "How dare you paddle around in my stream and stir up all the mud!" he shouted fiercely. "You deserve to be punished severely for your rashness!"
- 3 "But, your highness," replied the trembling Lamb, "do not be angry! I cannot possibly muddy the water you are drinking up there. Remember, you are upstream and I am downstream."
- 4 "You do muddy it!" retorted the Wolf savagely. "And besides, I have heard that you told lies about me last year!" "How could I have done so?" pleaded the Lamb. "I wasn't born until this year."
- 5 "If it wasn't you, it was your brother!"
- 6 "I have no brothers."
- 7 "Well, then," snarled the Wolf, "It was someone in your family anyway. But no matter who it was, I do not intend to be talked out of my breakfast."
- 8 And without more words the Wolf seized the poor Lamb and carried her off to the forest.
- 9 *The tyrant can always find an excuse for his tyranny.*
- 10 *The unjust will not listen to the reasoning of the innocent.*