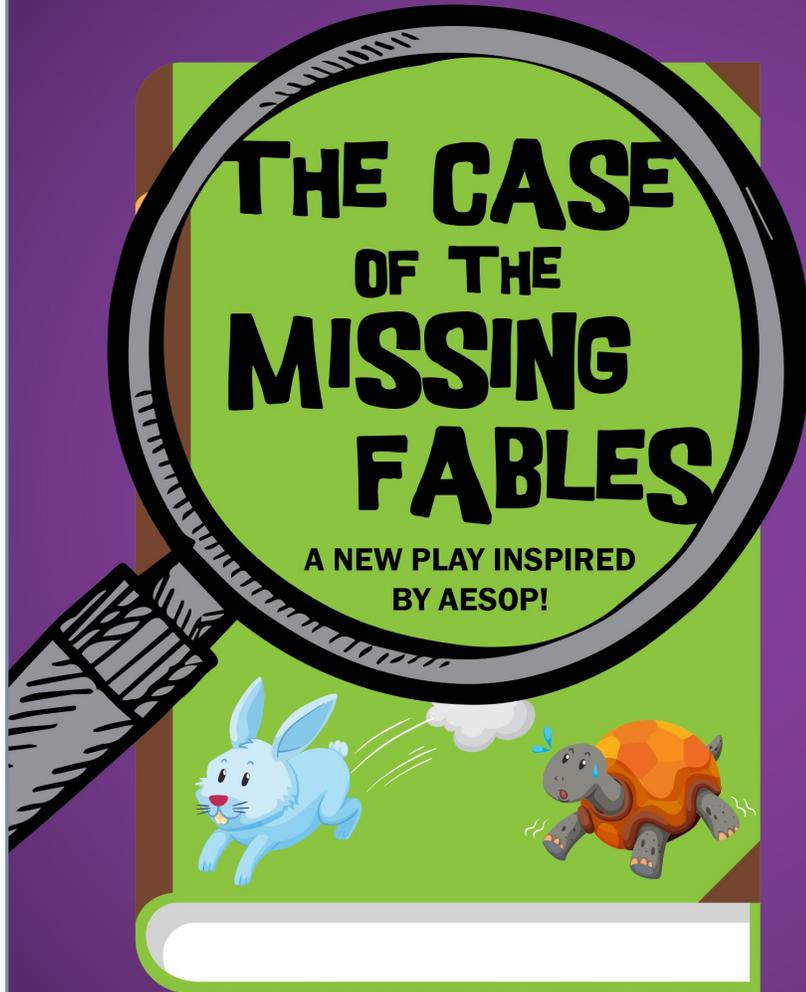


# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

THE CITY OF TAMPA'S  
CREATIVE ARTS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS



# *The Fables That Inspired*

## **THE CASE OF THE MISSING FABLES**

### **The Tortoise and the Hare**

*From Aesop For Children*



A Hare was making fun of the Tortoise one day for being so slow.

“Do you ever get anywhere?” he asked with a mocking laugh.

“Yes,” replied the Tortoise, “and I get there sooner than you think. I’ll run you a race and prove it.”

The Hare was much amused at the idea of running a race with the Tortoise, but for the fun of the thing he agreed. So the Fox, who had consented to act as judge, marked the distance and started the runners off.

The Hare was soon far out of sight, and to make the Tortoise feel very deeply how ridiculous it was for him to try a race with a Hare, he lay down beside the course to take a nap until the Tortoise should catch up.

The Tortoise meanwhile kept going slowly but steadily, and, after a time, passed the place where the Hare was sleeping. But the Hare slept on very peacefully; and when at last he did wake up, the Tortoise was near the goal. The Hare now ran his swiftest, but he could not overtake the Tortoise in time.

## **Let's Talk About It!**

### Questions for Discussion



- How do you think the tortoise felt when the hare made fun of him?
- Why do you think the tortoise won? How do you think he felt when he won?
- How do you think the hare felt when he lost?
- Can you think of a time when you worked slowly and steadily like the tortoise to accomplish something?
- When do you rush? How does it feel when you rush through a task? What happens?
- What do you think the moral of this fable is?

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## **Let's Write About It!**

### Language Arts

Think of a time when you didn't give up, when you worked slowly and steadily to accomplish a goal just like the tortoise. Write about your experience or draw a picture of what it was like.

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## **Let's Research It!**

### Science

Research tortoises and hares. How are hares different than rabbits? Why can a hare run so fast? How does a tortoise move? How is a tortoise different from a turtle? Where do we find tortoises and hares in the wild?

## The Ant and the Grasshopper

From [www.umass.edu](http://www.umass.edu)

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest.

"Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and moiling in that way?"



"I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and recommend you to do the same."

"Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; "We have got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil.

When the winter came the Grasshopper found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing, every day, corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer.

Then the Grasshopper knew... It was best to prepare for days of necessity.

## **Let's Talk About It!**

### Questions for Discussion

- Was there ever a time that you wanted to play but someone told you that you had to work on something instead?
- Do you think that the ant wanted to work or play?
- What is your favorite chore at home? Your least favorite?
- What do you think the moral of this fable is?



## **Let's Write About It!**

### Language Arts

Rewrite the story from either the ant's or the grasshopper's point of view. What does the ant think about the grasshopper? How does the ant feel about gathering food for winter? What does the grasshopper think about the ant? What is the grasshopper thinking when he realizes he doesn't have any food for winter and sees that ant has plenty?

## **Let's Research It!**

### Science

Research how ants and grasshoppers prepare for winter. Does one have it easier than the other? How are they similar? How are they different? Which one would you rather be; an ant or a grasshopper? Why?

## The Lion and the Mouse

*From Aesop For Children*

A Lion lay asleep in the forest, his great head resting on his paws. A timid little Mouse came upon him unexpectedly, and in her fright and haste to get away, ran across the Lion's nose. Roused from his nap, the Lion laid his huge paw angrily on the tiny creature to kill her.

"Spare me!" begged the poor Mouse. "Please let me go and some day I will surely repay you."

The Lion was much amused to think that a Mouse could ever help him. But he was generous and finally let the Mouse go.

Some days later, while stalking his prey in the forest, the Lion was caught in the toils of a hunter's net. Unable to free himself, he filled the forest with his angry roaring. The Mouse knew the voice and quickly found the Lion struggling in the net. Running to one of the great ropes that bound him, she gnawed it until it parted, and soon the Lion was free.

"You laughed when I said I would repay you," said the Mouse. "Now you see that even a Mouse can help a Lion."



## **Let's Talk About It!**

### Questions for Discussion



- Have you ever felt too small to help out?
- Are there any advantages to being small? What are they?
- Have you ever made a promise that you kept? What was it? Was it hard to keep? Why did you keep the promise?
- Why do people help each other? What do you think the moral of this fable is?

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## **Let's Write About It!**

### Language Arts

Create a list of possible favors that you could do for family,. Select 10 favors from the list and create a favor coupon book. Each favor will get its own piece of paper and all favors can be stapled together in the corner. Once completed, and these favor coupons to family and friends who, in turn, can redeem them at any time.

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## **Let's Research It!**

### Science

Research mice and lions. How does being small help mice survive? Why are they so good at gnawing at things? What do they eat? Where do they live? How does being large help lions survive? What do they eat? Where do they live? Do these two animals have anything in common?

# CURRICULUM CONNECTION



## Language Arts Activities

*The activities below are all creative writing exercises.*

### Write About It!

- **Write Your Own Fable!** After reading the fables that inspired *The Case of the Missing Fables*, write your own fable. Things to think about:
  - ⇒ Discuss possible ideas for the moral of your story—ie. beauty is only skin deep; it's better to bend than break; honesty is the best policy; etc.
  - ⇒ Pick 2 or 3 animal characters for your story.
  - ⇒ Keep it simple.
  - ⇒ Describe the characters and scenery.
- **Choose one of the morals from the fables that inspired *The Case of the Missing Fables* and write about a personal experience that taught you that lesson.**

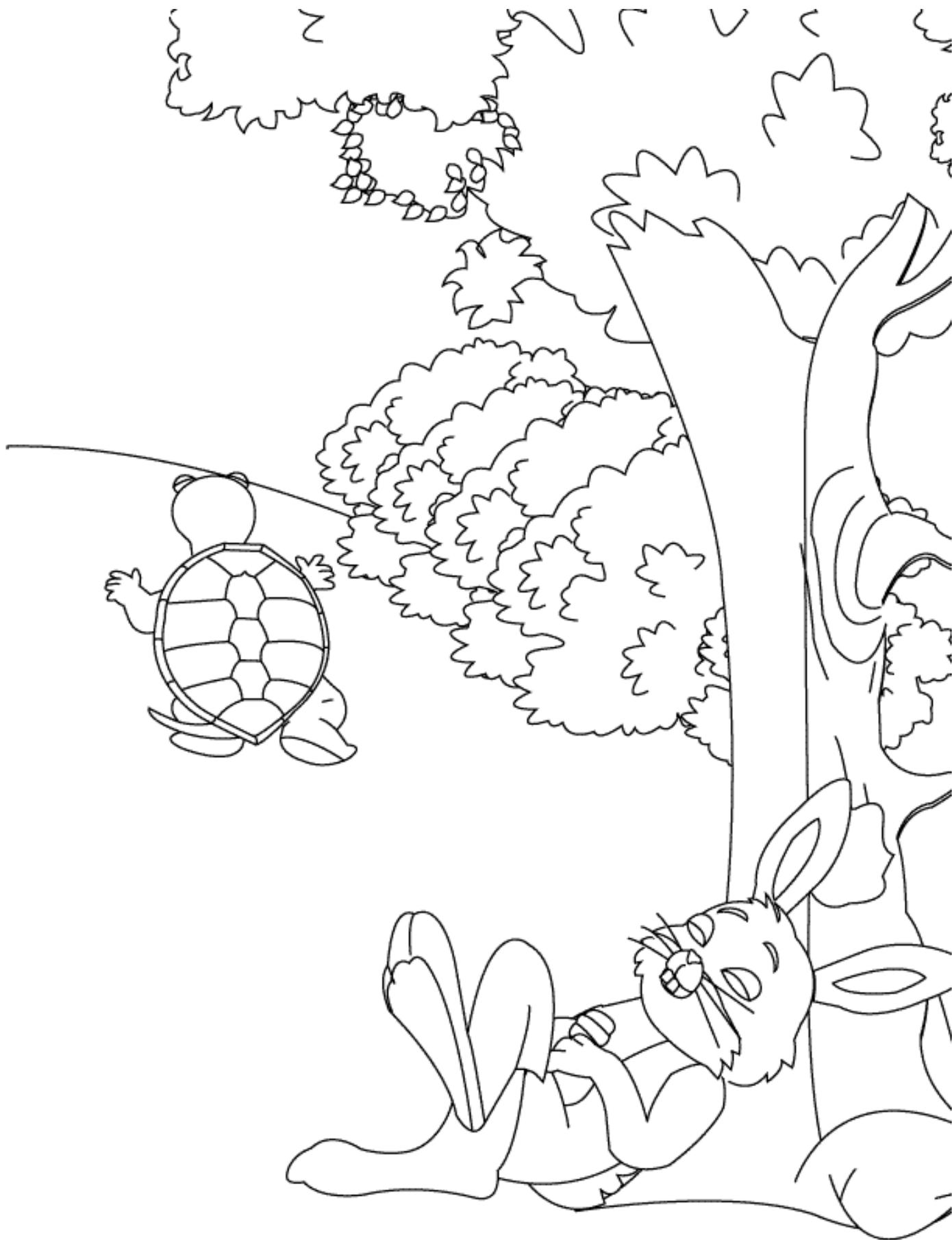


## Visual Arts Activities

### Lets Make Art!

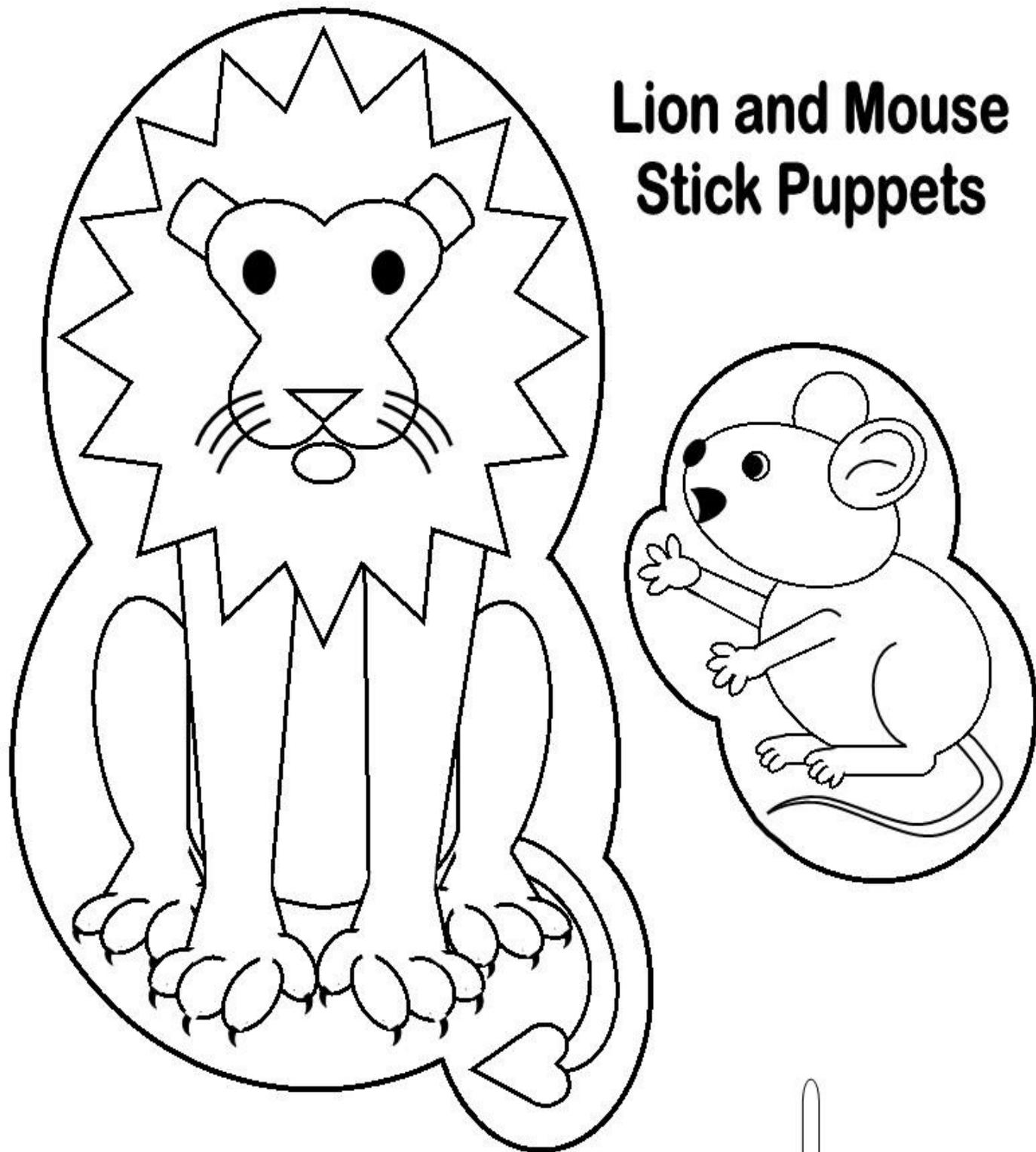
- **Using one of the coloring sheets on page 16 & 17, color your own fable!**
- **Make your own puppets!** Using the pattern on page 18, color, cut out and attach craft sticks to your very own Lion and Mouse puppets! Use the puppets to act out the fable with your friends!







## Lion and Mouse Stick Puppets



### Instructions

1. Print the figures out on cardstock.
2. Color and cut out on the heavy outer line.
3. Attach a craft stick to the back of each with the stick pointing up like Figure 1.

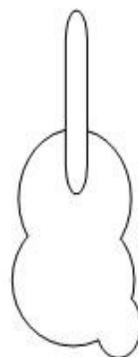


Figure 1

## Theatre Arts Activities



### Create a Character!

- Many of the characters in Aesop's fables are animals. These animals were brought to life by the Creative Arts Theatre's actors in *The Case of the Missing Fables*. The actors used their bodies, voices, and imaginations to give life to these animals. Create your own character in the style of *The Case of the Missing Fables*!

#### Helpful Hints

- ⇒ Choose an animal. What do you know about that animal? Where does it live? What does it eat? Does it live with others just like it or by itself?
- ⇒ Imagine if that animal had human qualities. What would they be? What kind of personality would it have? What kind of job? What would its house look like? What are its like and dislikes?
- ⇒ Now it's time to act! How does your character walk? What does its voice sound like?

### Put on Your Own Play!

- Look online and read more of Aesop's fables. Create your own play from one of these fables. Perform it at home!

