



Fables

Jean de La Fontaine , Craig Hill (Translator) , Edward Sorel (Illustrator)

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Une tortue, un corbeau, un lièvre, une fourmi, un lion, et même un pot au lait : autant de figures familières qui peuplent, parmi tant d'autres, notre imaginaire, resurgissent régulièrement, et que nous devons toutes au fabuleux talent de Monsieur de La Fontaine. Il est le prince des poètes, lui qui a su transformer une tradition un peu rigide, celle de la fable, en un art exceptionnel, qui charme l'oreille tout en réjouissant l'esprit, réveille les bois, anime les animaux et parvient à toucher tous les hommes.

Moralité : on aurait tort de ne pas se replonger dans la lecture des Fables, qui ravissent les enfants et enchantent les adultes ! Leur pertinence impertinente est sans doute à l'origine de leur succès ininterrompu : qu'on les récite, comme à l'école, qu'on se les répète pour soi seulement ou qu'on se les "mette en bouche", comme le fit avec un bonheur évident le comédien Fabrice Luchini, on ne résiste pas au petit plaisir d'une fable.

Fables Details

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Author : Jean de La Fontaine , Craig Hill (Translator) , Edward Sorel (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Fables for online ebook

Mateo R. says

Intertextualidad:

Menciones directas:

- * Orlando furioso, de Ludovico Ariosto.
- * Mención a los escritores Anacreonte, Quinto Horacio Flaco y Esopo.

Indirecta:

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* Lugares:

- Castilla y León, España.
 - Países del Loira, Francia.
 - Grecia.
 - Roma, Lacio, Italia.
 - Mantua, Lombardía, Italia.
 - * Ambientes: Abadía, pueblo, rural, urbano.
 - * Figuras fantásticas: Diablo, hada.
 - * Figuras recurrentes: Monja.
-

Blandine says

Today I thought aloud about how nice it would be to have a book with all of La Fontaine's fables. As I was in a bookshop to buy a friend's birthday present, I remembered to have a look and found this nice edition at a cheap price (2.80 euros! You can't beat that!) so I decided to buy my own copy.

I had to smile when I opened the book and discovered that the first fable was "La Cigale et la Fourmi", which I learnt in primary school when I was seven years old and still remember to the word today, seventeen years later. La Fontaine is one of these authors who have an impact on you, whom you enjoy learning about in school because it is funny and slightly politically incorrect. Just like Molière, for instance. The fables are about animals, who stand for rich noblemen and members of the aristocracy. La Fontaine denounced their wrongs in a very clever way, so very clever that few of them were aware that they were made fun of.

His fables have also become part of the every-day language, which proves just how much he brought to the French literature and language. Who has never said "Rien ne sert de courir, il faut partir à point"?

I am sure that I will enjoy sitting with my book now and then to read a few fables again.

Bárbara Castro Lima says

Estas fábulas estão em verso, por isso não são tão ao meu gosto.

As histórias são bastante variadas e com morais bastante acessíveis a crianças porque há sempre um parágrafo no fim a explicitar.

Michael Finocchiaro says

La Fontaine's fables are all in verse and are massively popular in France. They have wonderful little morals. The interesting side-note is that many of these children's fables are hidden criticisms of the court of Louis XIV where La Fontaine was a lackey among the thousands of others at Versailles. That might give you more of a chuckle as you read them knowing that La Fontaine is hiding some very real irony inside of them for his peers.

Emad (TheBookCritic) says

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In a nutshell:

These fables are immortal. One can't stop enjoying them. Some of them were totally new for me, and most of them were familiar.

This was a very enjoyable read.

Christine says

This is often considered children's literature, so I also categorized it as so, but I believe that was not necessarily La Fontaine's primary audience.

If you've never read any of these fables, you should. Many would strike you as familiar from your childhood, yet as an adult you will find ironies and morals in the full texts that will delight you all over again.

Laura says

Title: The Fables of La Fontaine

Translated into English Verse by Walter Thornbury and Illustrated by Gustave Doré

Author: Jean de la Fontaine

Illustrator: Gustave Doré

Translator: Walter Thornbury

Release Date: October 26, 2015 [EBook #50316]

Produced by Madelaine Kilsby, Laura NR and

Marc D'Hooghe at <http://www.freeliterature.org> (Images generously made available by the Hathi Trust and Gallica, Bibliothèque nationale de France, for the illustrations)

Free download available at Project Gutenberg.

Madeleine made the R1 proofreading of this book for Free Literature, and I've made the R2 round.

The original file is provided by HathiTrust through UPenn.

The French version (Livre I) can be found at Project Gutenberg.

The French version (Livre II) can be found at Project Gutenberg.

There are some writers the facts about whom can never be entirely told, because they are inexhaustible, and speaking of whom we do not fear to be blamed for repetition, because, though well known, they furnish topics which never weary. La Fontaine is one of this class. No poet has been praised oftener, or by more able critics, and of no poet has the biography been so frequently written, and with such affectionate minuteness. Nevertheless, it is certain that there will yet arise fresh critics and new biographers, who will be as regardless as ourselves of the fact that the subject has been so frequently enlarged upon. And why, indeed, should we refuse to ourselves, or forbid to others, the pleasure of speaking of an old friend of our childhood, whose memory is always fresh and always dear?

Florencia says

This is one of my most precious memories of my childhood. Before going to school, sometimes after, I used to go to a nearby kiosk and buy some chocolates. But these chocolates weren't ordinary ones. They came wrapped with tiny books inside: the fables of Jean de La Fontaine. That is one of my earliest *independent, adult-free* contacts with literature that I can remember, so I really treasure those fables. I didn't know they were such classics of the 17th century. I found them entertaining so I started collecting them (I've never liked chocolate that much, so I used to give it to other kids) and eventually, they led me to Aesop. Thanks to my grandma, actually, my GR back then. Around that time, she started flooding my house with books and was the one who encouraged me to start taking English lessons with her.

"The Lion and the Mouse", "The Ant and the Grasshopper", "The Cat and the Mice", "The Mice in Council", "The Fox and the Grapes", "The Fox and the Stork"... all favorites of mine. Damn, now I am truly nostalgic.

Well. I hope you enjoy my "it has nothing to do with the book" review. I gave this book 4 stars at first, but now I'm a mixture of books, images and nostalgia so, a 5-star rating it is.

Sep 14, 13

* Also on my blog.

The travelingpanda says

"Maître Corbeau sur un arbre perché tenait en son bec un fromage, Maître Renard, par l'odeur alléché lui tint a peu près ce langage..." Je pense que toute ma vie je me souviendrai de cette fable que sûrement tout écolier

français a du apprendre au moins une fois dans sa vie. J'ai adoré les fables de La Fontaine. Elles sont simples et drôles, ainsi qu'elles donnent une image des humains, ici animalisés, souvent très proche de la réalité.

Mónica Pereira says

Um livro completo com algumas fábulas que nos faz lembrar quando eramos crianças, como o Lobo e o Cordeiro ou a Lebre e a tartaruga!
Cada fábula nos ensina e traz uma moral!
Podem ser fábulas com animais mas acaba sempre por representar algum defeito humano!

Lizzy says

*“There's nothing sweeter than a real friend:
Not only is he prompt to lend—
An angler delicate, he fishes
The very deepest of your wishes,
And spares your modesty the task
His friendly aid to ask.
A dream, a shadow, wakes his fear,
When pointing at the object dear.”*

Ahmad Sharabiani says

La fontaine fables choisies = The Fables of Jean de La Fontaine, Jean de La Fontaine
The Fables of Jean de La Fontaine were issued in several volumes from 1668 to 1694. They are classics of French literature. Divided into 12 books, there are 239 of the Fables, varying in length from a few lines to some hundred, those written later being as a rule longer than the earlier.
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Teresa Proença says

"A raposa e as uvas
Contam que certa raposa,
Andando muito esfaimada,
Viu roxos, maduros cachos

Pendientes de alta latada.

De bom grado os trincaria,
Mas sem lhes poder chegar,
Disse: «Estão verdes, não prestam,
Só cães os podem tragar!»

Eis cai uma parra, quando
Prosseguia seu caminho,
E, crendo que era algum bago,
Volta depressa o focinho."

(trad. BOCAGE)

Niloo Farfar says

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Louy says

Quel plaisir de voir que ces fables n'ont pas d'ages, que de siècle en siècle les scènes de vie dont nous sommes témoins ou acteurs s'y reflètent toujours. Quel émerveillement procurent ces histoires si concises, aux rimes si riches et aux mots si bien choisis.
J'ai eu la drôle d'idée d'emporter l'intégrale des fables de la fontaine en voyage et de me délecter d'une dizaine d'entre elles chaque jour. Je me suis peu à peu mise à penser en vieux français et surtout en rime...
