

# How to Write a Fable



- ✓ Make the main characters **animals**, and have them behave like **human stereotypes**: *a brave little ant, a wise old turtle, a cunning fox, a lazy donkey.*
- ✓ Use the names of the main characters to give the **fable** a **title**, e.g. *The Ant and the Elephant.*
- ✓ State the **moral** of the fable clearly at the end, e.g. *A wise person always plans ahead.*
- ✓ Establish the **setting** in the first line and introduce the **main characters** as soon as possible.
- ✓ Give **clues** to the reader about what might happen, e.g. *A greedy but impatient fox was watching the chickens from behind a tree.*
- ✓ Keep description to a minimum and **use dialogue** only to help tell what happens.
- ✓ Use **connectives** when characters talk to one another to explain or show cause and effect - e.g.  
*“If you will give me your hand, I will help you over the river,” said the Wolf.*  
or *“I can’t possibly eat you because I’m a vegetarian,” lied the bear.*
- ✓ Connectives are used to show the reader quickly and easily when things happen and how time passes, e.g. *One morning... As he was... First he saw... Then he saw... When winter came... And then the grasshopper understood...*
- ✓ Use **questions** when one character introduces themselves to another - e.g.  
*“Why do you howl so loudly?”* or  
*“What are you writing so busily in your book, little bird?”*