

Fables... from Europe

European Fableway
to Human Values
2012-2014



<http://europeanfablewaytohumanvalues.weebly.com/index.html>



PARTNER SCHOOLS

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The Comenius multilateral project entitled "European Fableway to Human Values" (euf@bles2v@lues) brings together institutions from six European countries - Romania, France, Poland, Cyprus, Greece and Italy, and it has been developed taking into consideration the fact that human values are often forgotten in our present society and people and especially our children need to be reminded of them and they need to cherish them.

The project is meant to offer opportunities for ethnical, cultural and mental interrelations on a profound topic, of an essential ontological dimension, which exposes the negative aspects of the human character or of the society in general, with a moralizing purpose.

In order to create the booklet, pupils, first, translated and illustrated European fables, taken from the literature of the participating countries. Then, they chose characters from fables of the six European countries and created their own fables.

Working on this topic, the involved parts had the opportunity to draw conclusions on the intercultural type of European stories and through this procedure they also met and learned each others' culture.





ROMANIA

Grigore Alexandrescu:

The Dog and the Puppy

Grigore Alexandrescu is one of the authors of fables in Romanian literature as La Fontaine is in French literature. In his fable “The Dog and The Puppy”, he satirizes the desire of those who want to get out of ruck by any means, to get powerful by hypocrisy, arrogance and threats. He also brings into discussion the idea of equality between beings with the help of his characters, namely personified animals.

The big dog, Samson is talking to an ox, expressing his righteous indignation towards the most powerful ones who use to claim their “preciousness” based on their noble origin. By saying “I am a noble, too/ But to show it/ I do not like.”, he criticizes the lack of modesty of those who are more powerful than him. He even expects that equality should come to the fore within society, where there exist too much arrogance between the powerful ones. With false modesty, he asserts that he is quite pleased when he is considered an ordinary being and everybody addresses to him as plain and simple as possible.

The ox who is usually considered a strong but quiet animal, does not interfere with the

discussion. On the other hand, driven by enthusiasm and fraternity and encouraged by Samson's promising words, a little dog called Samurache, who was watching the scene “rapidly approaches/ to show his greatest love for them.” The puppy expresses his admiration towards Samson and the ox, the two powerful animals and boldly treats them as equals, but all he does is to arise Samson's fury who is simply taken aback by the puppy's boldness. With threats and offends, Samson replies: “We, your brothers! you, rascal!”, clarifying the gap of rank and power that lies between them.

Samurache's attempt to justify himself is cut out with authority and contempt by Samson who explains arrogantly the true meaning of his words: “I said the truth / I do not love pride and hate the lions/ And I do want equality / but not for little dogs.”

The morality of this fable is that the big dog Samson only wants to be equal with those more powerful than him, but at the same time, he wishes to maintain his social position towards the little dogs as a certificate of his power.





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Aesop's Fable:

The Lying Shepherd

There was once a shepherd boy who lived on a farm. He spent most of his time alone and found life in the pasture very dull and boring. All he could do to amuse himself was to talk to his dog or play on his shepherd's pipe.



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One day as he sat watching the sheep in the quiet field, he was thinking what he would do to amuse himself. *"What can I do to have some fun?"* he thought.

He then remembered his father who had told him to call for help if there was a wolf attack.

So, as it was rather lonely for him all day, he thought of a plan to amuse himself, get a little company and some... excitement. He thought that it would be funny if he started calling for help, making the villagers think that a wolf was attacking his sheep. *"I know what I should do!!! I will call 'Wolf wolf! Then everyone will think that a wolf has come to eat my sheep. People will run to help me. It will be fun when they find out there is no wolf after all'".*

He thought of them running to help him and laughing when they would realize that there is no wolf.

So, he started running towards the village shouting at the top of his voice:

– Wolf! Wolf! Help me! It will kill my sheep!

As he expected, the villagers who heard the cry, dropped their work and ran with great excitement to the pasture in order to save the sheep.

When they got there they found the boy doubled up with laughter at the trick he had played on them.

– Where is the wolf?

...a villager asked.

There is no wolf.

...the shepherd boy replied.

– It was only a joke. Now you will all have to go back home again.

...he continued and laughed.



A few days later the shepherd boy was bored and he decided to repeat once again the fake cry for help in order for the villagers to come out to help him.

– *Wolf! Wolf! Help me! It will kill my sheep!*

As he expected, the villagers had once again dropped off their work and ran towards him.

– *Where is the wolf?*

...a villager asked.

– *There is no wolf.*

...the shepherd boy replied.

– *It was another one of my jokes!*

...added the shepherd who laughed again.

The naughty boy played this joke over and over. And each time he told the villagers there was no wolf until, finally, the villagers were tired of him.

Then, one evening, as the sun was setting behind the field, and the shadows were creeping out over the pasture, a wolf really did spring from the underbrush and fall upon the shepherd boy's sheep.

And the shepherd boy was really frightened...

– *Help! Help! The wolf is here!*

...the boy called in terror as he was running towards the village.

– *Wolf! Wolf! Please help me!*

...he continued crying when he realized that nobody were coming to help him.



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The truth is that the villagers heard the cry but they didn't run out to help him this time as they had before.

– *Please help me! I'm telling the truth!*

...the boy continued.

He cannot fool us again! We don't believe him! We know that there is no wolf. He just calls us for fun. There is no danger. This time we will not go. The boy is bored again and wants to make jokes. We have so much work. We will not let him make fun of us, once again.

...a villager said.

We now know that there is no wolf! He calls us for fun! This time we won't go!

...another one agreed.

And they didn't.

The wolf killed many of the boy's sheep and then slipped away into the fields.

"I've been so selfish".

...thought the shepherd boy.

I made fun of something so dangerous and when danger truly approached nobody believed me. I shouldn't have lied!

Moral: The fable teaches us that no one will believe a habitual liar. Liars are not believed even when they speak the truth.



ITALY

Carlo Collodi:

Pinocchio

Geppetto, a poor old wood carver, was making a puppet from a tree branch. "You shall be my little boy", he said to the puppet, "and I shall call you 'Pinocchio'." He worked for hours, carefully carving each detail. When he reached the mouth, the puppet started making faces at Geppetto. "Stop that, you naughty boy," Geppetto scolded, "Stop that at once!" "I won't stop!" cried Pinocchio.

"You can talk!" exclaimed Geppetto.

"Of course I can, silly," said the puppet. "You've given me a mouth to talk with." Pinocchio rose to his feet and danced on the table top. "Look what I can do!" he squealed.

"Pinocchio, this is not the time to dance," Geppetto explained. "You must get a good night's rest. Tomorrow you will start going to school with the real boys. You will learn many things, including how to behave."

On his way to school the next morning, Pinocchio stopped to see a puppet show. "I can

dance and sing better than those puppets and I don't need strings," boasted Pinocchio. He climbed onto the stage.

"Get off my stage," roared the Puppet Master. Then he noticed how much the crowd liked Pinocchio. He did not say anything and let Pinocchio stay. "Here, you've earned five copper coins," the Puppet Master told Pinocchio.

"Take these coins and go straight home," said the Puppet Master. Pinocchio put the coins into his sack.

He did not go very far before he met a lame Fox and a blind Cat. Knowing that Pinocchio had money, they pretended to be his friends. "Come with us. We'll teach you how to turn those copper pieces into gold," coaxed the sneaky Cat.

"We want to help you get rich. Plant your coins under this magic tree. In a few hours they'll turn to gold," said the Fox.

"Show me where," said Pinocchio excitedly. The Cat and Fox pointed to a patch of loose



dirt. Pinocchio dug a hole and put the sack in it, marking the spot with a stone.

"Splendid!" exclaimed the Cat. "Now let's go to the inn for supper." After supper, the Fox and Cat, who weren't really lame or blind, quickly snuck away and disguised themselves as thieves. They hid by the tree waiting for Pinocchio to come back and dig up the money. After Pinocchio dug up the coins they pounced on him.

"Give us your money!" they ordered. But Pinocchio held the sack between his teeth and resisted to give the sack to them. Again they demanded, "Give us your money!"

Pinocchio's Guardian Fairy, who was dressed all in blue and had blue hair, sent her dog, Rufus, to chase the Fox and Cat away. She ordered Rufus to bring Pinocchio back to her castle. "Please sit down," she told Pinocchio. Rufus kept one eye open to watch what was going on.

"Why didn't you go to school today?" she asked Pinocchio in a sweet voice.

"I did," answered Pinocchio. Just then, his nose shot out like a tree branch. "What's happening to my nose?" he cried.

"Every time you tell a lie, your nose will grow. When you tell the truth, it will shrink," said the Blue Fairy. "Pinocchio, you can only become a real boy if you learn how to be brave, honest and generous."

The Blue Fairy told Pinocchio to go home and not to stop for any reason. Pinocchio tried to remember what the Blue Fairy told him.

On the way to home he met some boys. "Come with us," said the boys. "We know a wonderful place filled with games, giant cakes, pretty candies, and circuses." The boys didn't know that if you were bad, you were turned into donkeys and trained for the circus.

It was not very long before the boys began changing into donkeys. "That's what happens to bad boys," snarled the Circus Master as he made Pinocchio jump through a hoop.

Pinocchio could only grow a donkey's ears, feet, and tail, because he was made of wood. The Circus Master couldn't sell him to any circus. He threw Pinocchio into the sea. The instant Pinocchio hit the water, the donkey tail fell off and his own ears and feet came back. He swam for a very long time. Just when he couldn't swim any longer, he was swallowed by a great whale. "It's dark here," scared Pinocchio said.

Pinocchio kept floating deep into the whale's stomach. "Who's there by the light?" called Pinocchio, his voice echoing.

"Pinocchio, is that you?" asked a tired voice.

"Father, you're alive!" Pinocchio shouted with joy. He wasn't scared anymore. Pinocchio helped Geppetto build a big raft that would hold both of them. When the raft was finished, Pinocchio tickled the whale. "Hold tight, Father. When he sneezes, he'll blow us out of here!" cried Pinocchio.



Home at last, Geppetto tucked Pinocchio into his bed. "Pinocchio, today you were brave, honest and generous," Geppetto said. "You are my son and I love you."

Pinocchio remembered what the Blue Fairy told him. "Father, now that I've proven myself, I'm waiting for something to happen," he whispered as he drifted off to sleep.

The next morning Pinocchio came running down the steps, jumping and waving his arms. He ran to Geppetto shouting, "Look Father, I'm a real boy!"





GREECE

Greek Fable:

The Fox and the Crab

Once upon a time there was a group of crabs, which were playing all together at the beach. But a thoughtless crab decided to explore the forest near the sea.



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“Where are you going?” one of the crabs asked him.

“I’m bored of the sea and I’m going to explore the world”, the thoughtless crab said.

“Okay, but be careful, come back soon”.

And the crab started to explore the world while the other crabs went back to the sea.

At the other side of the forest, a hungry, skinny fox was looking for something to eat. The

friendly crab approached the cunning fox to ask for some information.

“Hello! What are you? I’m a lost crab from the sea and I want some information from you.” said the crab.

“Oooh, such a lucky day.....!” said the fox.

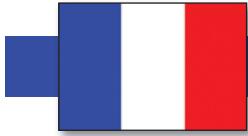
“What do you mean ‘a lucky day’ ?”

“Come to my fox-hole, and you’ll see”.

“Okay! Thank you for your hospitality!”

The thoughtless crab followed the vicious fox to her fox-hole, which was actually a trap so that she could eat him....





FRANCE

The Raven and the Fox

Perch'd on a lofty oak,
Sir Raven held a lunch of cheese

Sir Fox, who smelt it in the breeze,
Thus to the older spoke:

- "Ha ! How do you do Sir Raven?

Well, your coat, sir, is a brave one!

So black and glossy, on my word, sir,
With voice to match, you were a bird, sir,
Well fit to be the Phoenix of these days"

Sir Raven, overset with praise,
Must show how musical his croak.
Down fell the luncheon from the oak;
Which snatching up, Sir Fox thus spoke:
- "The flatterer, my good sir,
He lives on his listener:
Which lesson, if you please,
Is doubtless worth the cheese."

A bit too late, Sir Raven swore
The rogue should never cheat him more.

*Jean de la Fontaine
Fable II, Book I.*







POLAND

Ignacy Krasicki:

The heron, fish and the crayfish

Narrator:

There was once a heron who lived by a lake. Time passed, the heron grew old and had no more strength to catch fish. So she began trying to think a way of outwitting fish and said:

Heron:

You don't know what is in store for you, Fish. I heard some fishermen talking last night.

Fisherman 1:

Fishing with a fishing rod is so tiring, so let's drain the pond and catch every last one of them.

Narrator:

All the fish felt frightened and began crying and the heron started calming them down.

Fish 1:

Oh no, what will we do?

Fish 2:

We can't do anything. We're doomed.

Heron:

My dear fish, I feel pity for your lives, but there is something we can do to save you.

There is another pond near here where you could live peacefully even if they drained the pond.

Fish 1:

Ohhh, so take us there, please!!!!

Fish 2:

Take me first!! Me first, please.

Narrator:

At first the heron did not agree, but as the fish bagged intensively, she decided to help. She began lifting the fish out of the water, but instead of carrying them to the new pond, the heron was eating them one after another. And it went on until she had eaten a lot and thought of tasting a crayfish. One of them realized that was taken to the bushes to be eaten, understood that the heron had betrayed his fish friends and so to revenge he pressed his claws around the heron's neck and killed her. She died immediately.

Crayfish:

That's what happens to traitors!!!!!!!!!!!!





FABLE – GROUP 1

PINNOCHIO'S WISH

Pinocchio was a wooden doll.
Had no brain and had no soul.
One day he met Spanos, the clever man,
And wanted to ask him for a brain,
As if he had a brain, he had a soul.

Spanos agreed and gave him the brain,
but Pinocchio started to use it in vain.
He started to steal, he started to cheat,
he started to beat everyone in the street.

“This is not why I gave you the brain”, said Spanos
“You should do something good for the people.
That’s why I’m going to take it back
and you’ll become a stupid wooden doll AGAIN!”

MORAL: Don't mess with stupid people!

Written by:

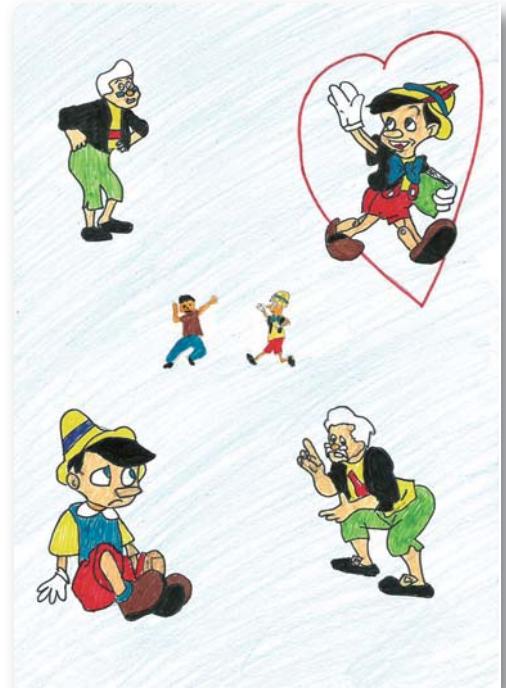
ANDREAS – CYPRUS

GIULIA – ITALY

DAVID – POLAND

ELIAN – ROMANIA

Illustrated by: ROMANIA



FABLE – GROUP 2

Written by:

ANNA GIULIA – ITALY

RAMON – ROMANIA

DOMINIKA – POLAND

DAVID – ROMANIA

Illustrated by: CYPRUS

THE INNOCENT DOG

Once upon a time, there was a dog called Samurache, who lived in a farm. His life was very good because he had food and shelter, love and admiration from children that played with him all day; in fact, he was very friendly.

One day, while he was walking in the forest, he met a wolf. He had a bad life, he was hungry because he couldn't find food and he had to kill animals to eat. So, he was not loved in the forest. He was alone and miserable.

The wolf said:

“You are very lucky, I'd like to have your life. You have food and shelter, so I'd like to try this for one day”.

The dog, in his innocence, agreed. He wouldn't think that after one day the wolf would not go back from where he came. However, this was exactly what happened. The wolf became the new dog.

MORAL: *He who changes the old things with new ones is likely to be deceived.*



FABLE – GROUP 3

Written by:

DAIANA – ROMANIA

LORAND – ROMANIA

FEDERICA – ITALY

CONSTANTINOS – CYPRUS

Illustrated by: GREECE

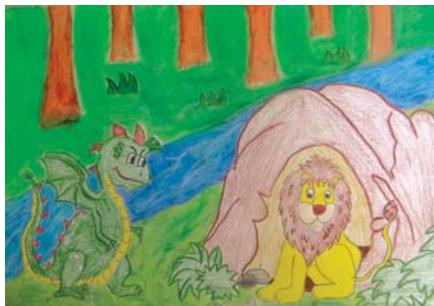
THE DRAGON AND THE LION

Once upon a time, there was a lion, who was the king of the forest. One day, a dragon visited the forest and met the lion. The dragon got jealous and wanted to be the most powerful animal in the forest. He wanted to be the king. So, he invited the lion for lunch in his house. The lion was very happy to have a new friend and gladly accepted the invitation. When the lion went to the dragon's house, he sat on the chair, but instead of having a meal, he became the dragon's meal.

MORAL: *Do not trust everybody.*



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FABLE – GROUP 4

Written by:

CHRISTOS – CYPRUS

CASANDRA – ROMANIA

ADELA – ROMANIA

Illustrated by: FRANCE

THE LAZY FOX

One day, a fox went to Augustus, king of Parphia, to ask him for food. The king said:

“I will give you food, if you do something for me”.

And the fox answered:

“I will work for you, if you feed me.”

The king accepted the fox’s proposal. So he gave food to the fox, but when the fox finished eating the food, he just disappeared into the woods!

MORAL: Don't trust someone lazy!



FABLE – GROUP 5

Written by:

NOEMIE – FRANCE

ROXANA – ROMANIA

CRISTIAN – ROMANIA

MARINE – FRANCE

Illustrated by: ITALY

THE STRONG MAN SAVES ANNA

Once upon a time, Anna was walking on the street, but a bad monster, half man and half wolf, kidnapped her. The strong man, Akritas, was in the neighbourhood and saw what had happened. He followed them into the forest and fought with the monster. The hero was hurt by the monster and he had to surrender.

Three days later, he came back to the forest and defeated the monster with a special arrow, which had some poison on it, that killed the monster. Anna was saved and she married the hero. They had 3 children, each of them with special powers. They travelled all over the world, helping people and saving them from problems.



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MORAL: You should *NEVER* give up - every difficult situation has a solution. You should only think about it.



FABLE – GROUP 6

Written by:

CARLA – ROMANIA

ALEKSANDRA – POLAND

JAN - POLAND

Illustrated by: POLAND

THE STORY OF PERETTE AND MARY, AN ORPHAN GIRL

Once upon a time, there was Perette, a girl who had a farm. One day, as she was milking some cows, she met another girl, named Mary.

“What are you doing here?” she asked.

“I got lost in the forest. I don’t know where to go”, Marry replied.

“Where are your parents?”

“My parents died a long time ago.”

“Oh...Where’s your home then?”

“I don’t have a place to live.”

“Well...Don’t worry. I’ll take you home. You can work on the farm with me. Would you like to?”

“Of course. I’m very excited. I don’t know how to thank you!”

And from that day they worked on the farm together.

A month later, the wolves got closer to the farm and the sheep were in danger. Perette was petrified, being afraid that she’ll lose her animals. However, Mary was clever enough to keep the wolves away from the farm. She took some pans from the kitchen and she made a lot of noise so that the wolves were afraid and ran far away from the farm. Mary was very pleased with herself for being able to help her friend. In this way, she returned the favour that Perette did to her. From that day on, these girls have been very close to each other and on the basis of their friendship, they built the best farm in the area.

MORAL: *Whenever you do something good, it will come back to you eventually one day.*



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