

Fables Years 7 - 9: The Three Eggs and a Dodgy Cow

Once upon a time, there lived three eggs. There was Mother Egg, and two brothers called James and Joe. They lived in a town called Mania. James, the oldest, was dumb and athletic. Joe was the younger child and the smartest by far. He followed James around everywhere, and did everything James asked him to do.

One day, Mother Egg was busy cooking a delicious stew for the family. Unfortunately, she ran out of tomatoes and asked James to go to the market.

“Take your brothers to the market and buy me some juicy, red tomatoes please, James,” she said.

As the eggs were dashing out of the door, mother egg called out, “Don’t buy the tomatoes from the cows! They will try and trick you!” She warned the young eggs again, saying “Make sure you buy them from the camel.”

James didn’t really pay attention to his rotten old mother. “Any old tomato will do,” he muttered, as he shut the door behind him. Joe chuckled.

James and Joe arrived at the bustling Mania Market, searching for cheap tomatoes. They spotted a camel selling tomatoes for 25 yolks each.

“Too expensive,” said James. “If we have money left over, we can spend it on chocolate!”

They found another camel who was selling tomatoes for 15 yolks each, but again, James said it was too expensive and wanted to save the money for chocolates. After searching for a long time, the two egg brothers came across some tomatoes for 5 yolks each.

“These are the cheapest, and we’ll have plenty left over for chocolates,” James said excitedly.

“But James, a cow is selling them. Remember what mum said about not buying tomatoes from cows?” Joe, the smarter egg, reminded his brother.

“Who cares what she says? Think of all the chocolates!” replied James. “These are the tomatoes that we’re getting,” he said, and walked over to the cow to purchase the tomatoes.

They sprinted home and waited to eat the delicious stew. Mum, still cooking, dropped the tomatoes into the pot. All of a sudden, all the red melted away, and revealed three old, ugly potatoes!

Begins with ‘once upon a time’ which doesn’t specify when. This means that the story can apply to anyone anywhere.

The characters are objects and animals, which have been given human qualities.

Uses past tense

The human qualities that the characters have are important for the lesson the reader will learn from this fable.

Use of dialogue between characters to develop the story.

The complication that the main characters need to overcome.

The human personalities of the characters are important in overcoming the complication.

The narrator is not a character in the story – it is in the third person.

Mother Egg was very angry. “Where did you get these from? You didn’t buy them from a cow did you?” she asked the boys.

James didn’t know what to say, and Joe felt very bad for not standing up for himself and doing the right thing, which is what mum wanted them to do.

For dinner that night, all that the two very hungry brothers got to eat was a stew with no flavour, and some very crunchy old potatoes!

Fables sometimes have unhappy endings, because the reader can learn from the mistakes of the main characters.

The moral of the story is revealed at the end of the story. The message is not sent as a lecture – we are not told directly. Instead, the reader has to infer the moral.

From:

Adapted from a student work sample from *Craigieburn Secondary College* 2015.