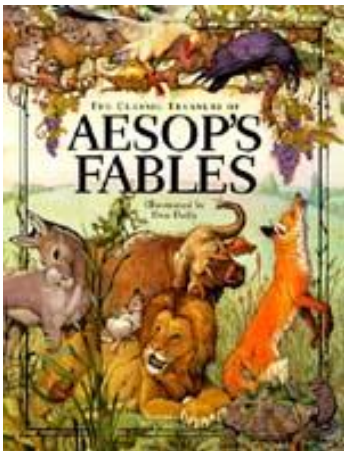


Program Name: Aesop's Fables: Tales with a Point

Artist: Jay Cady, Leslie Cady, & Rebecca Dempsey

Special Requirements:

Large open space; 30 minutes prior to performance for set-up and 30 minutes after for break-down.



Performance Description

Aesop was the original character-development teacher, with a clear moral for every fable. The Aesop Players bring his stories to life with voices, bodies, props, mime, juggling, singing, imagination, and lots of help from the audience. Students will practice their reading, thinking, and acting skills in this fun and flexible program that can be tailored to emphasize character traits in your school's character-education program.

The show opens with the Aesop Players explaining who Aesop was and where and when he lived. They then introduce the concepts of fables, morals, and the role of the Greek Chorus, which will be played by the audience. The Aesop Players then act out several fables, some of them involving the audience from their seats and some with a member of the audience on stage. The format for each fable is:

- The audience as chorus will read a sign that has a clue about a character in the fable (e.g. "CRAB" or "WIND")
- The Aesop Players (and any volunteers) act out the fable, with help from the chorus reading, singing, making sound effects, or finishing rhymes.
- Jay gives a formal wording while Rebecca gives a contemporary wording of the moral, which emphasizes the chosen character trait.
- Leslie leads discussion in which students identify which character traits were shown in the fable.

Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Learn that a fable is a story with a moral that teaches good behavior
- Engage in active listening & imagination - responding vocally to character questions.
- Use thinking skills to decide which character traits are illustrated, which character uses or does not use those traits, and what happens because of that choice.

Standards addressed:

- Educational Objectives and Standards (1.1, 1.6, 1.7, 6.8)
- Character Education
- Active Listening
- Reading Skills

Artist Bio: Jay Cady, Leslie Cady, and Rebecca Dempsey

Leslie and Jay Cady have been full-time performing artists since 1980. They have performed their engaging blend of juggling, mime, magic, and wacky dialogue in 32 states and seven foreign countries.

Jay and Leslie enjoy using their big bag of tricks to illustrate and reinforce curriculum concepts. Their infectious sense of fun is a hit with students, teachers, and administrators.

In 1984 they studied with legendary mime Marcel Marceau. They were two of 60 students chosen to study with Marceau in the first two-week workshop he taught in the United States.

Jay and Leslie have twice been nominated for the "Best of Kansas

City Theater Awards". They have performed for ESPN, the National Theater of Guatemala, and the U.S. Department of Defense Overseas Tours.

Rebecca Dempsey has been a Teaching Artist with KCYA since 2003 with her solo elementary workshop *The Oregon Trail: A Pioneer Woman's Story*. She also performs in *Kansas Cultural History*, a group performance for elementary schools. In addition, Rebecca leads a solo elementary workshop version of that program.

She taught children in Sunday School for more than 20 years, and wrote plays of Bible stories and directed students in acting them out. She also wrote and directed worship services geared for children. She directed and

acted in Vacation Bible School skits for several years, sometimes with children in the cast.

Rebecca has acted professionally in commercials, company training videos, and films since 1998, including The Young Playwrights Festival at The Coterie. She has written, acted in, and/or directed over 80 shows with 30 groups since 1993, many of them with children in the cast.

Together Jay, Leslie and Rebecca wrote *Aesop's Fables: Tales with a Point* for KCYA. This program enables them to reach children at the core of education with morals and understanding while incorporating the theatrical talents they each possess.

Vocabulary

Aesop: a Greek slave who popularized fables

Character Trait: a way of acting that helps everyone live together in peace and happiness

Fable: a story that teaches a moral

Moral: a rule for good living that the fable teaches, relating to a specific

character trait

Fable: a story that teaches a moral

Character Trait: a way of acting that helps everyone live together in peace and happiness

Greek Chorus: a group of people that sing or chant together to tell part of the story

List of Resources:

Books:

Anthony, M. (2006). "The Legendary Life and Fables of Aesop". Toronto: Mayant Press.

Caxton, W. (1484). *The history and fables of Aesop*, Westminster. Modern Harvard University Press:Cambridge.

Handford, S. A.. (1954). *Fables of Aesop*. New York: Penguin.

Temple, O; (1998). *Aesop, The Complete Fables*. New York: Penguin Classics.

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022
KCYA.org

Post-Performance Activities

1. Keep a journal of actions you do that illustrate each of your school's character traits. Tell specifically what you did and what character trait that action used.
2. Write praise notes to people who do things that illustrate your school's character traits. Tell specifically what they did and what character trait that action used.
3. Write your own fable, and act it out with your friends.

