

# ANIMAL FABLES & PUPPETRY

2ND GRADE  
CULTURAL  
MAIN LESSON

2 DAY CYCLE

WALDORF CURRICULUM  
2015

Complete Booklist:  
Sources of Fables

Borrowed Feathers and Other Fables

Freire Wright and Michael Foreman

Aesop's Fables

Ann McGovern

The Race

Caroline Repchuk

Teaching with the Fables: A Holistic Approach

Sieglinde de Francesca

Teaching with the Fables as: Extended Tale, Poem,  
Illustration, Play, Puppet Show & Natural Science Lesson

Animal Legends: A 2nd Grade Language Arts Block

Donna Simmons

Henny Penny

Paul Galdone

The Lion and the Mouse

Jerry Pinckney

The Ant and the Grasshopper

Amy Lowry Poole

The Fables of Aesop

Joseph Jacobs

The Fox that Wanted Nine Golden Tails

Mary Knight

Miscellaneous

Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices

Paul Fleischman

Complete Booklist:  
Art & Handwork Resources

<u>Coloring with Block Crayons: Emphasizing the Primary Colors</u> book & DVD	Sieglinde de Francesca
<u>Making Make-Believe: Fun Props, Costumes, and Creative Play Ideas</u>	MaryAnn Kohl
<u>Drawing Simple Animal Forms</u>	Bruce Bischof (Live Education!)
<u>Learning about the World through Modeling</u>	Arthur Auer
<u>Painting and Drawing in Waldorf Schools: Classes 1 to 8</u>	Thomas Wildgruber
<u>Painting in Waldorf Education</u>	Dick Bruin and Attie Lichthart
<u>The Art of Feltmaking: Basic Techniques for Making Jewelry, Miniatures, Dolls, Buttons, Wearables, Puppets, Masks, and Fine Art Pieces</u>	Anne Einset-Vickrey
<u>Feltcraft: Making Dolls, Gifts, and Toys</u>	Petra Berger
<u>Making Picture Books with Movable Figures</u>	Brunhild Muller
<u>Making Magical Fairy-Tale Puppets</u>	Christel Dhom
<u>The Nature Corner: Celebrating the Year's Cycle with a Seasonal Tableau</u>	M v Leeuwen
<u>Little Felted Animals</u>	Marie-Noelle Horvath
<u>Around the World with Finger Puppet Animals</u>	Suzanne Down

### A Note about the Two-Day Cycle

The two-day cycle means that a lesson, told as a story, is given on the first day. The student explores the lesson artistically and in a hands-on way, then creates an illustration for the main lesson book (we usually do this as the right hand page of a two-page spread).

The student then sleeps.

The next morning the student is asked to orally retell the story in his/her own words. At this age, children dictate to the adult the sentence or sentences they want to go in the main lesson book. Write these sentences neatly on a separate sheet of paper — in print — for your child to copy. Your child then writes the sentences in the main lesson book (this is the left hand page of our two page spread). The page is unlined in order to require more concentration from the student.

The next lesson is then begun.

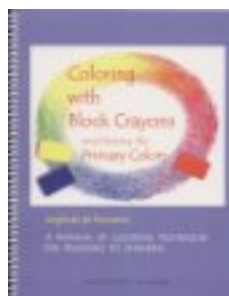
Typically four stories can be done in a week, with a new story being told Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu.

### Additional Notes

We did this as our first main lesson block of the year, and used Monday as an “orientation” day to set up the school environment and label all of our supplies. If you would like to do an extra story instead, “The Mice in Council” is a good one. It is easy to act out as a family, sitting in a circle on the floor with just one prop: the jingle bell. Another option might be “Juno and the Peacock,” for which Sieglinde de Francesca gives a beautiful wet-on-wet watercolor painting.

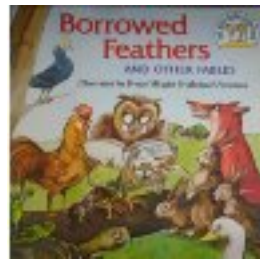
It is not necessary to buy ANY books of fables for this unit, although if you did want to own just one, I like Ann McGovern’s retellings. All the Aesop’s fables you could possibly want are available online for free. I’ve included all the art and handwork books we used but they are certainly not mandatory. I understand budgetary constraints!! If you can only buy one book for the Fables block, make it Teaching with the Fables: A Holistic Approach by Sieglinde de Francesca. If you can get a second, I recommend Donna Simmons’ book Animal Legends: A 2nd Grade Language Arts Block. Lastly, I do think that Arthur Auer’s book is worth getting if you can squeeze in a third, since it goes to grade 8 and will stand you in good stead for many years.

If you are not familiar with block beeswax crayons, you may wish to get Sieglinde de Francesca’s book and/or DVD Coloring with Block Crayons: Emphasizing the Primary Colors.



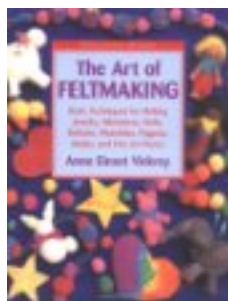
**Lesson**

“The Milkmaid” from Borrowed Feathers and Other Fables illus. by Freire Wright and Michael Foreman



**Exploration**

Handwork  
The Art of Feltmaking: Basic Techniques for Making Jewelry, Miniatures, Dolls, Buttons, Wearables, Puppets, Masks, and Fine Art Pieces by Anne Einset-Vickrey



p.103

Make wet felted eggs by wrapping colorful wool roving around an egg (you can use a real egg, a wooden egg, a plastic Easter egg, an oval stone, or egg maraca) and sprinkling with hot soapy water, then rubbing between your hands to create a coat of felt which completely surrounds the egg.

A Note: These eggs are wonderful for the Spring nature table (and you can make little chicks to go in them!)

Let the wool felted eggs dry. Use sharp scissors to snip a zigzag line (then remove the egg) as if the egg has cracked.


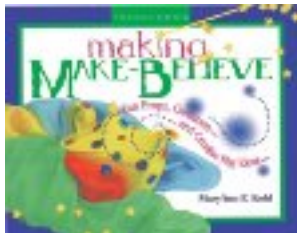
Act out the fable by having your child carry a basket of the empty wet felted eggs on his/her head. When the milkmaid tosses her head in pride, the eggs and basket go flying.


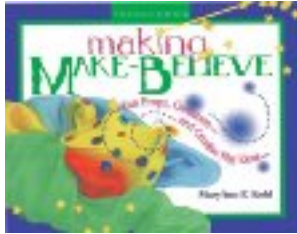

Although the fable actually has her carrying a pail of milk, the idea of not counting your chickens before they hatch seems to go well with the “smashed open” felted eggs all over the ground.

**Main Lesson Book**

give your child the new blank main lesson book (we use Orange for cultural lessons)

add illustration to MLB: block beeswax crayon drawing of milk pail tumbled onto the ground

<p><b>Main Lesson Book</b></p>	<p>retell story #1</p>	<p>adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #1</p>	
<p><b>Lesson</b></p>	<p>“The North Wind and the Sun” from <u>Borrowed Feathers and Other Fables</u> illus. by Freire Wright and Michael Foreman</p> 		
<p><b>Exploration</b></p>	<p>Art</p> <p><u>Making Make-Believe: Fun Props, Costumes, and Creative Play Ideas</u> by MaryAnn Kohl</p> 	<p>p.98 “Stocking Mask” activity</p> <p>We acted this fable out.</p> <p>We created the Stocking Masks for the North Wind and the Sun, then used a playsilk to be the cloak for the Man to wear and then remove.</p>	<p>p.99 “Face-Paint Stencils” activity</p> <p>An alternative idea could be the Face-Paint Stencils, creating a shining sun stencil and a dark cloud stencil for the actors to wear.</p>
<p><b>Main Lesson Book</b></p>	<p>add illustration to MLB: block beeswax crayon drawing, yellow glowing sun, strongly blue North Wind, light blue sky, red cloaked shape of a man, green ground</p>		

Week One: Thursday			story #3
<b>Main Lesson Book</b>	retell story #2	adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #2	
<b>Lesson</b>	<p>“The Great and Little Fishes” from <u>Borrowed Feathers and Other Fables</u> illus. by Freire Wright and Michael Foreman</p> 		
<b>Exploration</b>	<p>Art</p> <p><u>Making Make-Believe: Fun Props, Costumes, and Creative Play Ideas</u> by MaryAnn Kohl</p> <p>p.31 “Fingerpainted Ocean</p> 	<p>My daughter made a stick puppet with a paper drawing of a cluster of small fish, as well as a large background mural of an underwater scene with big fish. After having the big fish tease the little fish, she swiped her arm across the mural (to act as the net), and then moved the small fish free.</p>	<p>It would be beautiful for an older child, or an adult, to sew a pure felt tapestry of this story. A net could be crocheted out of yarn. There are lot of fish templates in <u>Feltcraft: Making Dolls, Gifts, and Toys</u> by Petra Berger.</p> 
<b>Main Lesson Book</b>	add illustration to MLB: block beeswax crayons		

Week One: Friday			
<b>Main Lesson Book</b>	retell story #3	adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #3	
<b>Exploration</b>	make homemade sidewalk chalk to use in next week's lesson; this needs a long time to dry		

### **Sidewalk Chalk Recipe** - from Family Fun magazine

This recipe makes ONE egg. Repeat as desired.

Liberally coat the interior of a plastic Easter egg with petroleum jelly. (If there are any little holes in the eggs, cover them on the outside with masking tape first.)

Set the two halves upright in an empty egg carton.

Add a generous amount of extra petroleum jelly around the seams.

In a disposable cup mix 1/4 cup Plaster of Paris and 2 T powdered tempera paint. Stir so that the color is evenly distributed. Use more for a deeper color, less for pastels. Use red, yellow, and blue powdered tempera; allow your child to mix the secondary colors if you wish.

In a separate disposable container measure out 2 T cold water. Then slowly add the dry mixture to the water, stirring as you go. Mix well with a plastic spoon.

Spoon mixture into egg halves. Tap the egg on the table as you fill it to get rid of any air bubbles, and level off the plaster when you're done using the edge of a plastic knife. Wipe any extra Plaster of Paris from the sides.

Let stand for a few minutes.

Snap egg halves together and briskly shake to combine.

Set the eggs in the carton and allow them to dry overnight. Use a knife to wedge open the two egg halves, then, if necessary, use the screw driver like a key, turning it between the two plastic edges (without touching the chalk), to carefully separate the two halves.

**NOTE:** Discard any unused Plaster of Paris mixture in the trash. Do not pour it down your drain.



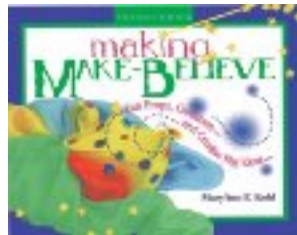
**Lesson**

“The Hare and the Tortoise” p.60 from Aesop’s Fables by Ann McGovern



**Exploration**

Art  
Making Make-Believe: Fun Props, Costumes, and Creative Play Ideas by MaryAnn Kohl



p.35 “Playdough Car and Track” (make racetrack plus the hare and tortoise)  
  
We actually skipped this idea and went straight to making the movable picture to illustrate the MLB.

One child I know made a slit for a moving sun to go across the sky, as well as the tortoise and hare. Very imaginative!

**Main Lesson Book**

add illustration to MLB: moving picture  
  
Making Picture Books with Movable Figures by Brunhild Muller



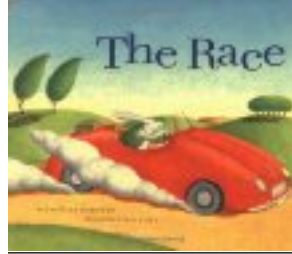
A Note:  
  
It is helpful to glue an envelope inside the back cover of the main lesson book; this can hold the tortoise and the hare when they are not in use. The movable figures, since they are not attached to the illustration, can fall out of the book and be lost.

**Main Lesson Book**

retell story #4

enjoy the version created by Caroline Repchuk in The Race

adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #4



**Lesson**

“The Crow and the Pitcher” fable from Teaching with the Fables: A Holistic Approach by Sieglinde de Francesca



**Exploration**


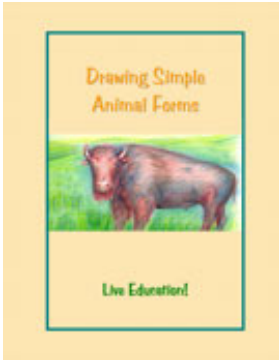
Art

This fable lends itself well to a shadow puppet play. Use a white sheet, a lamp without a shade, a tall thin clear glass vase, a pile of pebbles or marbles, and water. Your hand adding pebbles will be the head and beak of the crow.

**Main Lesson Book**

add illustration to MLB: block beeswax crayon drawing using directions from Sieglidine’s book

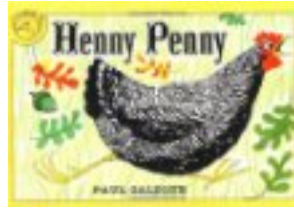
the directions she gives can also be used to guide a wet-on-wet watercolor painting

<p><b>Main Lesson Book</b></p>	<p>retell story #5, as a poem if you wish (per Sieglinde's example)</p>	<p>adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #5</p>	
<p><b>Lesson</b></p>	<p>"Foolish Words" Jataka tale from <u>Animal Legends: A 2nd Grade Language Arts Block</u> by Donna Simmons</p> 		
<p><b>Exploration</b></p>	<p>Art</p> <p>create a large chalk mural, as Donna Simmons suggests, on the sidewalk or on a chalkboard</p> <p>A book from the Live Education Second Grade curriculum has excellent directions for drawing many of these animals:</p>	 <p><u>Drawing Simple Animal Forms</u> by Bruce Bischof</p>	<p>rabbit p. 5 monkey p. 15 antelope p.10 bush pig p.13 parrot p.5 elephant p.15 lion p.16</p> <p>If your child hasn't used this book before, allow <i>plenty</i> of time to practice making the figures using his instructions.</p>
<p><b>Main Lesson Book</b></p>	<p>add illustration to MLB</p> <p>Block beeswax crayons OR Chalk on construction paper OR Pencil</p>	<p>Leah ended up using pencil. And we did potato print letters of the word EARTHQUAKE scattered jaggedly across the top of the page to add excitement.</p>	

**Main Lesson Book**

retell story #6

enjoy reading Henny Penny by Paul Galdone



adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #6

an older child who is sitting in on the lesson with your second grader may compare and contrast the two stories using a Venn Diagram

**Lesson**

“The Lion and the Mouse” fable from Teaching with the Fables: A Holistic Approach by Sieglinde de Francesca



**Exploration**

Act out this fable collaboratively with your family members, each playing a part. Without masks or props, let the body gestures and voices build a sense of character and place. Go slowly. Allow the story to develop and let each person contribute their ideas (they can be scenery, the lion, the mouse, and the hunters)

**Main Lesson Book**

add illustration to MLB: block beeswax crayon drawing using directions from Sieglidine’s book

the directions she gives can also be used to guide a wet-on-wet watercolor painting

**Week Two: Friday**

**Main Lesson Book**

retell story #7, as a poem if you wish (per Sieglinde's example)

enjoy reading The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinckney

adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #7



**Exploration**

Art

Beeswax modeling of the Lion and Mouse from Learning about the World through Modeling by Arthur Auer, p.58

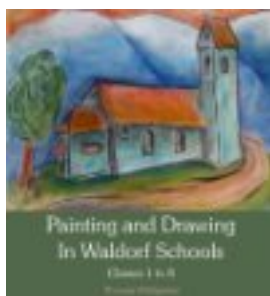


Art \*

Wet-on-wet watercolor painting from Teaching with the Fables: A Holistic Approach by Sieglinde de Francesca



\* This was the first time I did a directed wet-on-wet watercolor painting for this block. Instead, I used the first 2 weeks to do the watercolor lessons from Painting and Drawing in Waldorf Schools: Classes 1 to 8 by Thomas Wildgruber. These lovely color stories (pp.134-139) lead up to painting the fables. He includes instructions and examples for "The Fox and the Raven," "The Fox and the Grapes," "The Fox and the Goat," "The Fox and the Wolf," "The Fox and the Bear," "The Lion in the Cave," and "The City Mouse and the Country Mouse." However, *many* sources, including Painting in Waldorf Education by Dick Bruin and Attie Lichthart, contend that students in second grade should *not yet* be painting forms. You must make this decision.



**Lesson**

“The Bear and the Bees” fable from Teaching with the Fables: A Holistic Approach by Sieglinde de Francesca



**Exploration**

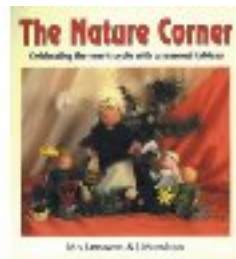
Handwork  
make a needle felted mobile of this fable (examples can be found in Making Magical Fairy-Tale Puppets by Christel Dhom)

choose a stick



Child makes the bees using the pattern and instructions from The Nature Corner: Celebrating the Year's Cycle with a Seasonal Tableau by M v Leeuwen

p.49



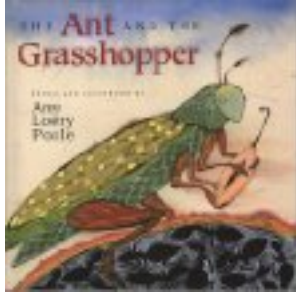

Adult makes the bear using the pattern and instructions from Little Felted Animals by Marie-Noelle Horvath  
p.46

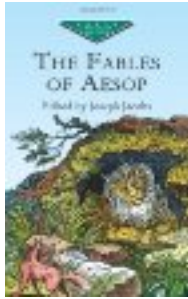
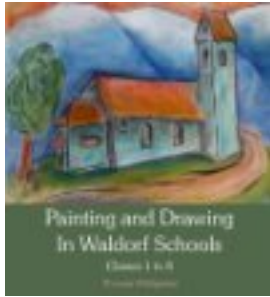


**Main Lesson Book**


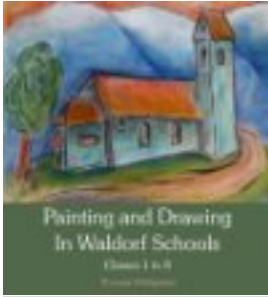
add illustration to MLB: block beeswax crayon drawing using directions from Sieglidine's book


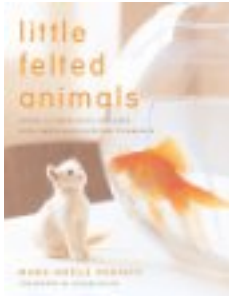
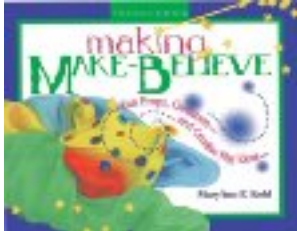
the directions she gives can also be used to guide a wet-on-wet watercolor painting

<p><b>Main Lesson Book</b></p>	<p>retell story #8, as a poem if you wish (Appendix A)</p>	<p>adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #8</p>	
<p><b>Lesson</b></p>	<p>The Ant and the Grasshopper fable by Amy Lowry Poole</p> 		
<p><b>Exploration</b></p>	<p>Art</p> <p>Beeswax modeling of the Grasshopper and Ants using instructions in <u>Learning about the World through Modeling</u> by Arthur Auer, pp.58-59</p> 		
<p><b>Main Lesson Book</b></p>	<p>add illustration to MLB: inspired by Amy Lowry Poole's illustrations, we used white chalk on black construction paper to create the ant from negative space</p>	<p>Note: There is some discussion in Waldorf circles about the inappropriateness of young children using black; however, Auer suggests black beeswax</p>	<p>He clearly states that "children love to work with the wondrous color black, which can also be used for ravens and crows, the messengers of secrets"</p>

<p><b>Main Lesson Book</b></p>	<p>retell story #9</p>	<p>adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #9</p>	
<p><b>Lesson</b></p>	<p>“The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse” from <u>The Fables of Aesop</u> ed. by Joseph Jacobs</p> 		
<p><b>Exploration</b></p>	<p>Create two mouse puppets using two old wooden spoons. Add details with construction paper, markers, pipe cleaners, and fabric. Leah made many outfits for her puppets!</p>	<p>Draw a large scene on a chalkboard, showing the fancy house of the Town Mouse and the simple home of the Country Mouse. Use this as a backdrop for the play.</p>	
<p><b>Main Lesson Book</b></p>	<p>add illustration to MLB: watercolor painting from <u>Painting and Drawing in Waldorf Schools: Class 1 to 8</u> by Thomas Wildgruber p.145</p> 		



<b>Main Lesson Book</b>	retell story #10	adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #10	
<b>Lesson</b>	“The Fox and the Grapes” p.5 from <u>Aesop’s Fables</u> by Ann McGovern  		
<b>Exploration</b>	Let your child act out this fable by going outside and jumping in vain to try to touch a high branch, basketball hoop, etc.		
<b>Main Lesson Book</b>	add illustration to MLB: watercolor painting from <u>Painting and Drawing in Waldorf Schools: Class 1 to 8</u> by Thomas Wildgruber p.141  		

Week Three: Friday			
<b>Main Lesson Book</b>	retell story #11	adult scribe / child copy main lesson book page for story #11	
<b>Exploration</b>	Art  Beeswax modeling of the Fox from <u>Learning about the            World through Modeling</u> by Arthur Auer, p.57  	Handwork  Adult makes the Fox from <u>Little Felted            Animals</u> by Marie-Noelle Horvath p.48  	Handwork *  Adult makes the Story Apron from <u>Making            Make-Believe: Fun            Props, Costumes, and            Creative Play Ideas</u> by MaryAnn Kohl p.87  
<b>Main Lesson Book</b>	use the title page to add a table of contents to the main lesson book	decorate the front cover	be sure to add the date and your child's name to the back of the book

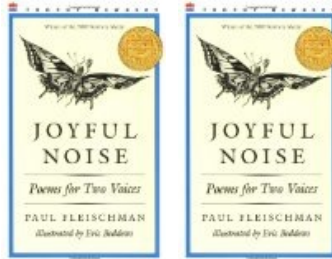
\* Suzanne Down, of Juniper Tree School of Puppetry Arts, makes *beautiful* story aprons with a large circular piece of flat felt, wet felted by hand to serve as the background scene. This piece of felt covers the chest of the puppeteer. It has a large loop in back which slips over your head. A long piece of rectangular silk is then attached below the felt circle. This covers the lap of the puppeteer, who uses the story apron while seated. <http://junipertreepuppets.com>

Her book Around the World with Finger Puppet Animals is a wonderful source of patterns for many animal finger puppets.

One Final Thought: The Fox that Wanted Nine Golden Tails by Mary Knight is a long fable in chapter book form. It makes a nice bedtime read-aloud story with which to end this block.

## Appendix A

I first asked my daughter to retell the fable “The Bear and the Bees” in her own words. Then we read several selections from Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices by Paul Fleischman (“Grasshoppers” p.3, “Water Striders” p.5).



This book inspired her retelling of the story... as a poem for two voices! (Sieglinde suggested doing two poems, one from the point of view of the bee and one from the point of view of the bear, but this worked out even better.) Here is the result. The voice on the left is the Bee and the voice on the right is the Bear. Lines which are side by side are read simultaneously.

Life is great	Life is great
There is so much food	There is so much food
flowers	
	berries and fish
What is that smell?	What is that smell?
	honey
bear	
	so sweet
so foul	
Here he comes	Here I come
	in the log
out of the log	
a giant nose	a giant hive
BUZZ.... sting!	
	Ow, the little insect stung me!
Keep out!!	
	I'll show you!!
Bear!!! Bear!!! Everyone come!!!	
	No, don't sting!!!
Fly toward the bear	
	Run toward the lake