Racconti di Esopo - Inglese

Sommario

[The fox and the stork (cibi) 2](#_Toc46412606)

[The fox and the grapes (colori) 2](#_Toc46412607)

[The hen that laid the golden eggs (giorni) 2](#_Toc46412608)

[The hare and the tortoise (indumenti) 2](#_Toc46412609)

[The mice and the cat (numeri e stanze) 3](#_Toc46412610)

[The wolf and the shepherd (mesi) 3](#_Toc46412611)

[The donkey and the ice (ore) 3](#_Toc46412612)

[The lion and the mouse (parenti) 4](#_Toc46412613)

[The lion and the wild boar (stagioni) 4](#_Toc46412614)

# The fox and the stork (cibi)

The fox and the stork were very close friends. They used to spend a lot of time together and one day the fox invited the stork to dinner. For a joke the fox served soup in a cup which was not deep enough for the stork to eat from. The fox easily managed to lick it while the stork only managed to wet the top her beak so that after dinner she was more hungry than she had been before.

I am very sorry - said the fox - did you not like the soup?

-Oh, don't worry: I hope that you will come and have lunch with me soon - the stork answered.

So they agreed when the fox would go to the stork's house for lunch. They sat at the table, but the soup, the steak, the potatoes and the cake were served in a long narrow vase so the fox could not reach the food. All she managed to do was to lick the outside of the vase while the stork plunged her beak into the vases and took out delicious mouthfuls.

- Don't you like the food I prepared for you? - She asked.

And in this way the fox's joke back fired on him.

# The fox and the grapes (colori)

It was a beautiful sunny day. Under the clear blue sky a red fox, driven by hunger, was trying to get a bunch of white grapes which was to high up for him to reach.

Although he jumped with all his strength he did not manage to even touch the grapes.

As he was going away, he said: “They are all green, they are not ripe yet. I do not want to eat unripe grapes”.

# The hen that laid the golden eggs (giorni)

A farmer owned a beautiful hen, who, every morning, instead of the usual egg, laid a golden egg in the hen house. One egg on Monday, one egg on Tuesday, one egg on Wednesday. One egg every day of the week.

The farmer however was greedy and became dissatisfied with the one golden egg the hen punctually laid every day.

“I bet, if I kill her I will become very rich” he though. “I wonder how much gold she has in her stomach. It’s not worth waiting for one miserable egg a day!”. But he should have realised that the hen that laid the golden egg was not different from the other hens and did not have gold in her stomach as he had so foolishly thought. So, as he was not satisfied with what he could get, he was left with nothing 'cause now he didn’t have even one golden egg a day.

# The hare and the tortoise (indumenti)

One day the hare was boasting to the other animals: - nobody can run as fast as me. I challenge anyone to race against me.- - I accept the challenge- the tortoise said in his usual calm voice. The hare burst out laughing and said: – that’ll be the day! But the tortoise replied: – Don’t count your chickens before their hatched!

The day of the race the hare was wearing a T- shirt, shorts and tennis shoes. He set off like lightning and immediately took the lead. Then he stopped and lay down to take a nap. In the meantime, the tortoise continued very slowly on his way. When the hare wake up he saw that the tortoise was very close to the finishing line. Then the hare started to run as fast as he could, but it was too late. The tortoise won the race.

# The mice and the cat (numeri e stanze)

One day 10 mice gathered in the sitting room around the table to discuss how not to be captured by the cat who was always around. Suddenly a young mouse, stood up on a chair, and claimed - I will tell you what to do: - attach a bell to the cat’s tail - When the cat moves, the bell will ring and we will all know exactly where the cat is. But an old mouse asked: - Which of us will attach the bell? –

All the mice ran away: the 3 youngest mice went to the kitchen searching for cheese, 2 others claimed to have stomach-ache and rushed to the bathroom, 4 others said that they could not do it because they had to do their homework. In short none of them wanted to try to put the bell on the cat’s tail.

# The wolf and the shepherd (mesi)

It was around the middle of January. A wolf started to follow a flock of sheep but he did not attack them. At first the shepherd was very suspicious of the wolf. In February the wolf was still watching the sheep but he did not approach them. Slowly the shepherd began to convince himself that he had found a guard and not a wolf who wanted to attack his sheep. One day in June the shepherd had to go to the city. He let the wolf take care of his flock and left unconcerned. But the wolf took his chance. He attacked the flock causing carnage. He tore most of the sheep to pieces. When the shepherd returned and saw the condition of his flock, he said: - I was an idiot to leave my sheep with a wolf -.

# The donkey and the ice (ore)

Once upon a time there was a donkey. He woke up one morning at 8 o'clock and he worked all day.

At 6 o'clock in the evening he was so tired that he could not walk as far as his stable. It was a very cold winter and all the streets were icy.

- I will stop here - told the donkey and lay down on the ground.

At 7 a young sparrow approach the donkey and whispered : - Be careful, Mr. donkey. You are not on the street but on frozen lake-.

The donkey who was nearly sleep, decided to take a nap and to go to the farm at 9.

But the warmth of his body slowly began to melt the ice and the ice cracked. When he found himself in the water, the donkey woke up. However it was too late...

And he caught a very bad cold.

# The lion and the mouse (parenti)

While a lion was sleeping in a wood, a family of mice: the father, the mother and 7 children (the 3 brothers and 4 sisters) were having a picnic. One of the brothers was running and ran into the lion. With a quick swipe of his huge paw, the lion caught the mouse intending to tear him to pieces. The little mouse pleaded for mercy promising that if the lion let him go, he would be forever grateful and in his debt. The king of the forest burst out laughing and let the little mouse go free. One evening, a short while later, the lion fell into a net which had been set' by hunters. The little mouse heard the moaning roars of the lion and went to help him, and by using his sharp teeth, he cut through the rope. After he freed the lion, the mouse said: - some time ago you laughed at me. Now you know that even a little mouse can help a big lion!-

# The lion and the wild boar (stagioni)

After a cold winter and a surprisingly mild spring, there was a very hot summer and all the animals were very thirsty.

A lion and a wild boar went to a small water hole to drink and started to quarrel about which of the two should drink first. The quarrel became so ferocious that it turn into a fight. But while they were getting their breath back, they saw vultures in the sky who were waiting to eat the animal who died in the fight. Seeing the vultures they stopped fighting and said: - Better to become friends than a meal for the vultures.

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