

Name: _____ Class: _____

The Donkey, the Fox, and the Lion

By Aesop
From Aesop's Fables • 620-560 B.C.

Aesop was a slave and story-teller who was believed to have lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 560 B.C. This story is part of his collection of tales known as "Aesop's Fables" which have influenced children's literature and modern storytelling culture. As you read, look for evidence to answer this important question: What drives a person to betray?

- [1] The Donkey and the Fox, having entered into partnership together for their mutual protection, went out into the forest to hunt.

They had not proceeded far when they met a Lion.

The Fox, seeing imminent danger, approached the Lion and promised to contrive¹ for him the capture of the Donkey if the Lion would pledge his word not to harm the Fox.

Then, upon assuring the Donkey that he would not be injured, the Fox led him to a deep pit and arranged that he should fall into it.

- [5] The Lion, seeing that the Donkey was secured, immediately clutched the Fox, and attached the Donkey at his leisure.²



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1. **Contrive (verb):** to bring about or create; to plan
2. **Leisure (noun):** free time; use of free time for enjoyment

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. Who benefited from this act of betrayal? Explain. [RL.2]

2. How was the nature of the fox's betrayal different from the nature of the lion's betrayal? Whose was "worse"? Why? [RL.3]

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. What drives someone to betray? Use evidence from this text, your own experience, and other art, literature, or history in your answer.