

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: Why Dogs Chase Cats**

Once long ago, Dog was married to Cat. They were happy together, but every night when Dog came home from work, Cat said she was too sick to make him dinner.

Dog was patient with this talk for a while, but he soon got mighty tired of fixing dinner for them both after a hard day's work. After all, Cat just stayed home all day long.

One day, Dog told Cat he was going to work, but instead he hid in the cupboard and watched Cat to see if she really was sick.

As soon as Cat thought Dog had left, she started playing games with Kitten. They laughed and ran about. Cat wasn't the least bit sick.

Dog jumped out of the cupboard. When Cat saw him, she stuck a marble in her cheek and told Dog she had a toothache. Dog got so mad at her he started chasing her around and around the house.

And that is why Dogs have been chasing Cats ever since.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: The Lion and the Mouse**

Once upon a time when a Lion was asleep a little Mouse began running up and down upon him. This soon woke up the Lion, who placed his huge paw upon the Mouse. The Lion opened his big jaws to swallow her.

"Pardon, O King," cried the little Mouse: "If you forgive me this time, I shall never forget it. Who knows, maybe I will be able to help you one of these days?"

The Lion thought this idea of the little Mouse being able to help him was very funny. So he lifted up his paw and let her go.

Some time after the Lion was caught in a trap. The hunters tied him to a tree and went in search of a wagon to carry him on.

Just then the little Mouse happened to pass by. When the Mouse saw the Lion tied up with ropes, she went up to him and soon chewed through the ropes that held the King of the Beasts.

"Was I not right?" said the little Mouse. "Little friends can sometimes be very big friends indeed."

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: The Crow and the Jar**

Once upon a time, there was a Crow who was half-dead with thirst

He came upon a Jar which had once been full of water; but when the Crow put its beak into the mouth of the Jar he found that only very little water was left in it, and that he could not reach far enough down to get at it.

He tried, and he tried, but at last had to give up.

Then a thought came to him, and he took a pebble and dropped it into the Jar. Then he took another pebble and dropped it into the Jar. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Jar. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Jar. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Jar. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Jar.

At last, at last, he saw the water rise up near him, and after dropping in a few more pebbles he was able to sip some water and save his life.

“Little by little does the trick” said the Crow, and he went away, no longer thirsty.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: The Ant and the Dove**

AN ANT went to the bank of a river to drink, and was carried away by the rush of the stream. He was on the point of drowning and cried out “Help me!”

A Dove sitting on a tree overhanging the water plucked a leaf and let it fall into the stream close to her. The Ant climbed onto it and floated in safety to the bank.

“Thank you!” cried the Ant.

“You are welcome!” said the Dove.

Shortly afterwards a birdcatcher came and stood under the tree, and laid a trap to catch the Dove, which sat in the branches, sleeping.

The Ant, seeing what the birdcatcher was doing, stung him in the foot.

“Ouch!” cried the birdcatcher. In pain the birdcatcher threw down the trap. The noise woke up the Dove, and she flew away to safety.

“Thank you!” cried the Dove as she flew away.

“You are welcome!” said the Ant. “One good turn deserves another,”

And so the Ant went on his way, and they both lived happily ever after.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: Why Bear Has A Short Tail**

ONE day the Bear met the Fox, who came slinking along with a string of fish he had stolen.

"Where did you get those from?" asked the Bear.

"Oh! my Lord Bear, I've been out fishing and caught them," said the Fox.

So the Bear had a mind to learn to fish too, and bade the Fox tell him how he was to set about it.

"Oh! it's an easy craft for you," answered the Fox, "and soon learnt. You've only got to go upon the ice, and cut a hole and stick your tail down into it; and so you must go on holding it there as long as you can. You're not to mind if your tail hurts a little; that's when the fish bite. The longer you hold it there the more fish you'll get; and then all at once out with it, and with a strong pull too."

Yes; the Bear did as the Fox had said, and held his tail a long, long time down in the hole, till it was frozen in. Then he pulled it out, and it snapped short off. That's why Bear goes about with a stumpy tail to this very day.

## Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables

### Student:

### Story: How Monkey Looked for Trouble

In a tiny village in Trinidad there lived an old woman who made the most delicious sweets. People would come from all around just to buy her candies at the village's market. One day, while walking to market, the old lady stubbed her toe on a stone and her coconut cakes spilled everywhere.

"Oh look at this trouble here," she said. "I can't believe what trouble I've got. Now I'll have to go right back home!"

Monkey was sitting in a tree above the road and saw and heard everything. As the old woman left he began to grow curious about her trouble. He scurried down the tree and went to the trouble sprawled across the road. He tasted one of the coconut cakes and exclaimed, "This trouble is most delicious! I shall go buy some more for myself!"

Monkey marched right into town and went to the nearest store. "I'd like to buy some trouble," he said. The merchant looked strangely at the little creature and asked, "Do you know what trouble is?"

"Yes, yes," Monkey said impatiently. "Give me all you have and be quick about it."

The shopkeeper shook his head with a little smile and soon brought out a large bag. Monkey paid for it and left. As he dragged the bag down the road, he began to grow tired.

"My my, but this trouble is heavy. And what strange sounds it makes." He eventually came to a clearing and decided to open the bag and enjoy his treat. Licking his lips, he loosened the top of the bag. Suddenly three fierce dogs burst from the bag, barking and flashing their sharp teeth. Poor Monkey ran up the nearest tree and sat on a high branch, shaking with fear as the dogs below barked and yapped at him. He grew hungrier and hungrier and eventually picked a strange fruit from above his head. He stuffed it in his mouth, not knowing that he was in a pepper tree. Oh! How that pepper burned his poor little mouth. And he could not go get water until the dogs left the tree.

Eventually they did leave and Monkey was able to run to a nearby pond to cool his burning tongue. And that is why Monkey stays high up in the treetops, far away from trouble.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

### **Student:**

### **Story: How Coyote Stole Fire**

Long ago the world was young and warm. Summer and Autumn were the only seasons and it was never cold. Coyote enjoyed this weather very much, and was very surprised one day to notice that it was changing. As the days went by, the air grew cooler and cooler. Coyote knew that poor Man could not stay warm in the coming days, because he had no fur. So Coyote decided to help Man. He knew of three Fire Beings that lived far away in the mountains. They had captured a piece of the sun and they guarded it jealously. If Coyote could just get a tiny bit of it, then Man would have a piece of the sun to keep warm through the long Winter season.

So Coyote walked for many miles until he came to the mountain of the Fire Beings. When the Beings heard someone nearby they leapt to their feet and looked out through the brush with red, gleaming eyes.

"What's that? What's that I hear?" one hissed. "

"It is no one," another growled. "Just a miserable Coyote."

They sat back down and paid Coyote no more attention. For the rest of the day he sat quietly in the grass and watched everything that they did. Coyote noticed that there was always a Fire Being on guard, except for early in the morning. Just before dawn, when the cold winds were blowing in, the Being who was watching the fire would take a few moments to wake up another.

"The next morning, when the Fire Being went to wake his sister, Coyote was waiting. Coyote leapt into the camp, snatched up a glowing piece of the fire and rushed down the mountainside.

The Fire Beings jumped to their feet and screamed in rage as they chased after him.

They almost caught him, but just as they were about to overtake him, he threw the piece of fire away from himself. The Beings barely touched the tip of Coyote's tail, but it was enough to turn it white. And Coyote tails have had white tips ever since.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

### **Student:**

### **Story: Anansi Tries to Steal Wisdom**

Anansi the spider knew that he was not wise. He was very clever, and could outwit many different people, but he knew that he did not have very much wisdom. This bothered him a great deal, but he did not know what to do about it. Then one day he had a clever thought. "I know," he said to no one in particular, "if I can get all of the wisdom in the village and put it in a hollow Jar, I will be very wise indeed. In fact, I would be the wisest of all!"

So he set out to find a suitable Jar and then began his journey to collect the village's wisdom. He went from door to door, asking everyone to give some of their wisdom. The people chuckled at poor Anansi, for they knew that of all the creatures, it was he that needed some wisdom the most. So each put a bit in his Jar and wished him well on his search. Soon Anansi's Jar was overflowing with wisdom and he could hold no more. He now needed to find a place to store it.

"I am certainly the wisest person in the world now, but if I don't find a good hiding place for my wisdom I may surely lose it."

He looked around and spotted a tall, tall tree. "Ah," he said to himself, "if I could hide my wisdom high in that tree, I would never have to worry about someone stealing it from me!"

So Anansi set out to climb the towering tree. He first took a cloth band and tied it around his waist. Then he tied the heavy Jar to the front of his belly where it would be safe. As he began to climb, however, the Jar full of wisdom kept getting in the way. He tried and tried, but he could not make progress around it. Soon Anansi's youngest son walked by.

"What are you doing Father?" asked the little spider. "I am climbing this tree with my Jar full of wisdom," Anansi replied.

"But Father," said the son, "wouldn't it be much easier if you tied the Jar behind you instead of in front?" Anansi sat there quietly for a very long time before saying, "Shouldn't you be going home now?"

The son skipped down the path and when he had disappeared, Anansi moved the Jar so that it was behind him and proceeded up the tree with no problems at all. When he had reached the top, he cried out, "I walked all over and collected so much wisdom that I am the wisest person ever, but still my baby son is wiser than me. Take back your wisdom!"

He lifted the Jar high over his head and spilled its contents into the wind. The wisdom blew far and wide and settled across the land. And this is how wisdom came to the world.



## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

### **Student:**

### **Story: Why Crocodile Has A Rough Back**

A long, long time ago, long before you and I were born, Crocodile had a back as smooth and flat as a stone. One day he was sitting in the hot midday sun by the riverbank, enjoying a sleepy afternoon snooze. Suddenly Rabbit came crashing through the grass and smacked right into Crocodile's side.

Crocodile slowly swung his huge head around and blinked at his unexpected visitor. "Rabbit, why did you wake me, and why are you puffing and blowing so hard?"

"My apologies, Crocodile, but Man sent Brother Dog to chase me down. I've been running all morning. I think Brother Man intends to eat me. I'm always in trouble with Man"

Crocodile smiled a toothy grin. "Nothing ever troubles me," he boasted. "In fact," he said, his tail swishing behind him, "I'd like to see Trouble try to bother me."

"Oh, Crocodile, you should be careful what you say. Trouble doesn't like to be talked to like that."

Crocodile laughed a toothy laugh and went back to his nap. But when he woke up after a few hours, Crocodile began to think about what Rabbit had said and started to get angry. "What does Trouble care what I say? Who does he think he is?"

He got angrier and angrier until he decided to go find Trouble and give him a piece of his mind. He crashed through the tall, dry grass, looking about. "Trouble, where are you? Come out and show yourself!"

He was yelling so loudly that he startled Monkey, who was smoking his pipe high in a tree. Monkey accidentally dropped his pipe, which fell down through the branches and landed right in the middle of the grass. Crocodile was so busy thrashing about that he didn't even notice that Monkey's pipe had set the tall, dry grass ablaze.

By the time he smelled the smoke, he was completely surrounded by the hungry flames closing in faster and faster. Crocodile panicked and plowed through the burning field, rushing for the safety of the river. By the time he splashed into the cool, soothing waters Crocodile's back, once smooth and flat, was now burned and gnarled like the rocky riverbank. He floated along the water, grumbling and muttering to himself. He's been grumpy ever since, and that is why he has a rough back.

## Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables

**Student:**

### **Story: How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin**

ONCE upon a time, on the shores of the Red Sea, there lived a Man who owned nothing but his hat and an oil-stove of the kind you must never touch. One day he took flour and water and currants and plums and sugar and things, and made himself one cake which was two feet across and three feet thick. He put it on the stove and he baked it till it was all golden brown. But just as he was going to eat it there came down to the beach a Rhinoceros with a horn on his nose, two piggy eyes, and few manners.

In those days the Rhinoceros's skin fitted him quite tight. There were no wrinkles in it anywhere. But he had no manners then, and he has no manners now, and he never will have any manners. He said, 'How!' and the Man left that cake and climbed to the top of a palm tree with nothing on but his hat.

The Rhinoceros upset the oil-stove with his nose, and the cake rolled on the sand. He spiked that cake on the horn of his nose, and he ate it, and he went away, waving his tail. When the Rhinoceros was gone, the Man came down from his palm-tree, and recited the following poem:

Them that takes cakes  
Which the Man with the Hat bakes  
Makes dreadful mistakes.

Five weeks later, there was a heat wave in the Red Sea. Everybody took off all their clothes. The Man took off his hat; but the Rhinoceros took off his skin. He carried it over his shoulder as he came down to the beach to bathe. In those days it buttoned underneath with three buttons. He waddled straight into the water, leaving his skin on the beach.

Presently the Man came by and found the skin, and he smiled one smile that ran all round his face two times. Then he went to his camp and filled his hat with cake-crumbs. He took that skin, and rubbed that skin just as full of old, dry, stale, tickly cake-crumbs as it could possibly hold. Then he climbed to the top of his palm-tree and waited for the Rhinoceros to come out of the water and put it on.

And the Rhinoceros did. He buttoned it up with the three buttons, and it tickled like cake crumbs in bed. He wanted to scratch, but that made it worse. He ran to the palm-tree and rubbed himself against it. He rubbed so much and so hard that he rubbed his skin into a great fold over his shoulders, and another fold underneath. He rubbed the buttons right off. This spoiled his temper, but it didn't make the least difference to the cake-crumbs. They were inside his skin and they tickled. So he went home, very angry indeed and horribly scratchy. From that day to this every rhinoceros has great folds in his skin and a very bad temper, all on account of the cake-crumbs inside.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

### **Student:**

### **Story: How the Bat Came to Be**

Long ago, as the Sun began to rise one morning, he got tangled up in the top branches of a very tall tree. When morning did not come, all of the animals went out to look for Sun. They looked everywhere, but no one could find him.

"Maybe Sun is caught in a tall tree," said a small brown squirrel. The squirrel began to go from tree to tree. At last, in the top of a VERY tall tree, he saw a glow of light. He climbed up and saw that it was Sun.

"Help me, Little Brother," Sun said.

The small brown squirrel came close and began to chew at the branches in which the Sun was caught. The closer he came to Sun, the hotter it got. The more branches that he chewed free, the brighter Sun's light became.

"I must stop now," said the small brown squirrel. "My fur is burning. It's all turning black."

"Help me," said Sun. "Don't stop now."

The small brown squirrel continued to chew, but the heat of Sun was hotter and brighter.

"I am growing blind," said the squirrel. "I must stop."

"Just a little more," said Sun. "I am almost free."

Finally, the squirrel chewed the last of the branches free. As soon as he did, Sun rose up into the sky. But the squirrel was blinded by the brightness of Sun. His long tail had been burned away and his fur was now all black. The Sun looked down and felt sorry for the squirrel.

"Thank you Little Brother," said Sun, "I will give you a gift. From now on you will be an even better flyer than the birds. Because you came too close to me, my light will always be too bright for you, but you will see in the dark and you will hear everything around you as you fly."

Then the small animal which had once been a squirrel dropped from the branch, spread its leathery wings and began to fly. He no longer missed his tail and his brown fur and he knew that when night came again, it would be his time. And so it was, long ago, that Sun showed his thanks to the small brown squirrel who became the first bat in the world.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

### **Story: How Turtle Lost His Whistle**

In the old days the Turtle had a fine whistle, but the Partridge had none.

The Turtle was constantly going about whistling and showing his whistle to the other animals until the Partridge became jealous, so one day when they met the Partridge asked to try the whistle.

The Turtle was afraid to risk it at first, suspecting a trick, but the Partridge said, "I'll give it back right away, and if you are afraid you can stay with me while I practice."

So the Turtle let him have the whistle and the Partridge walked around blowing on it in fine fashion.

"How does it sound with me?" asked the Partridge.

"Oh, you do very well," said the Turtle, walking alongside.

"Now, how do you like it?" said the Partridge, running ahead and whistling a little faster.

"That's fine," answered the Turtle, hurrying to keep up, "but don't run so fast."

"And now, how do you like this?" called the Partridge, and with that he spread his wings, gave one long whistle, and flew to the top of a tree, leaving the poor Turtle to look after him from the ground.

The Turtle never got his whistle back, and from that, he grew ashamed to be seen, and ever since he shuts himself up in his box when anyone comes near him.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

### **Student:**

### **Story: Why Turtles Don't Fly South**

Turtle was walking around when he saw many birds gathering together. They were making a lot of noise, and Turtle was curious.

"Hey," Turtle said, "What is happening?"

"Don't you know?" the birds said. "We're getting ready to fly to the south for the winter. Soon it's going to be very cold here and the snow will fall. There won't be much food to eat. Summer lives down south all of the time and there's plenty of food."

As soon as they mentioned food, Turtle became even more interested. "Can I come with you?" he asked.

"Look here," the birds said, "can you hold a stick hard in your mouth?"

"That's no problem at all," Turtle said. "Once I grab hold of something no one can make me let go until I'm ready."

"Good," said the birds. "Then you can hold on hard to this stick. These two birds here will each grab one end of it in their claws. That way, they can carry you along. But remember...you HAVE to keep your mouth shut!"

Turtle grabbed onto the middle of the stick and two big birds came and grabbed each end. They flapped their wings hard and lifted Turtle off the ground. Soon, they were high in the sky and headed south.

Turtle had never been so high off the ground before, but he liked it. But before they had gone too far, he began to wonder where they were. He wanted to ask, but he couldn't talk with his mouth closed. Turtle rolled his eyes. But the two birds just kept on flying. Then, Turtle tried waving his legs at them, but they acted like they didn't see him.

"Mmmmmph," Turtle said, trying to get their attention. It didn't work. Finally, Turtle lost his temper.

"Why don't you listen to....." but that was all he said, for as soon as he opened his mouth to speak, he had to let go of the stick, and he started to fall. Down and down he fell. He was SO frightened that he pulled his head and legs inside his shell, to protect himself. When he hit the ground, he hit so hard that he ached all over. He crawled into a nearby pond and dug into the mud as far as he could get. Then, he fell asleep and he slept all through the winter and didn't wake up until spring.

So that is why today, ONLY the birds fly south while turtles sleep through the winter.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

### **Story: The Wolf at the Wedding**

Once upon a time, Wolf became very hungry. No matter how hard he tried, he could not catch anything to eat.

One day, Hungry Wolf met Dog on the road.

“Where are you going?” asked Wolf.

“I am going to a wedding feast,” said Dog. “Would you like to come?”

“Yes, I’m starving!” said Wolf.

So Dog said that Wolf could come with him, but Wolf had to promise to act like a dog while he was there.

The two entered the wedding house and sat under the table, eating. Wolf ate and ate, and his belly got very full. All around them, the people at the wedding started to sing and dance.

Wolf was so happy that he decided to sing. So he stuck his nose in the air and howled a great loud wolf howl.

“AAAAOOOOWWWW!!!!” went Wolf.

All the music and dancing stopped and men with sticks began chasing and beating Wolf. He finally jumped out a window and ran and hid in the woods.

After that, wolves have made sure that they are far from people before they start to howl, and they don't attend weddings anymore.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: Hawk's Sewing Needle**

Long ago, baby birds had no feathers. Because they had no feathers, mother birds had to sew feather suits for their children.

Chicken had a lot of children, so she was always sewing.

Unfortunately, Chicken lost her needle. So she went to visit her friend Hawk.

“Hello Hawk,” said Chicken, “May I borrow your needle so I can sew feather suits for my children.”

“Yes of course,” said Hawk, “But you must promise to bring it back.”

So Chicken went home with Hawk’s sewing needle. One day, she dropped the needle onto the ground. When she looked, she could not find it.

When she did not return the needle, Hawk came looking for Chicken. But Chicken and her children hid in the forest every time that Hawk came by.

Finally the angry Hawk yelled into the forest at Chicken.

“Since I can't sew feather suits for my children,” shouted Hawk, “I will take the feather suits from the chickens!”

And that is how it is to this day. That is why Hawks hunt chickens, why chickens scratch and peck at the ground looking for Hawk's lost sewing needle.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: Why Sun and Moon Live in the Sky.**

A long time ago, when the world was new, the Sun married the Moon. They both lived happy as can be in a little cottage near the Ocean.

One day, Sun and Moon invited Ocean over to their house for a visit. Ocean said he would love to visit, so he swished and he sloshed and he rolled right into Sun and Moon's cottage.

Ocean liked it so much in the little cottage that he wanted to stay.

“Can I live with you?” Ocean asked them.

Sun and Moon liked Ocean, so they said, “Yes Ocean, you can live with us.”

“I only hope the cottage will be big enough for all three of us,” said Moon.

So Sun and Moon invited Ocean to live with them.

“You can move in on Monday,” said Sun.

“Thank you!” Ocean said, and he went home.

On Monday morning, Ocean swished and sloshed and rolled right into Sun and Moon's cottage. This time, however, Ocean moved in with all his friends: the whales, the fish, the dolphins, and all the creatures that live in the sea.

The water rose higher and higher in the cottage. It filled up every corner of the cottage, from the floor to the ceiling.

Soon there was no more room for Sun and Moon. When they saw that there was no more room for them, Sun and Moon rose up into the sky where they have lived ever since!



## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

### **Story: How The Leopard Got His Spots**

A long, long time ago, Leopard was the plain, solid yellow colour of the desert. He was so plain he was almost invisible against the yellow desert. This made Leopard a very good hunter. When he headed out to hunt, Giraffe and Zebra and the other animals didn't know which way to jump.

“I’m tired of being hunted all the time,” said Giraffe.

“Me too,” said Zebra. “Let’s leave the desert and go live in the forest.”

So, to escape Leopard's appetite, Giraffe and Zebra headed into the great shadowy forest. In the forest it was cool and dark. The sun shone through the leaves, and there were shadows everywhere. The Giraffe’s spots, and the Zebra’s stripes helped them blend into the shadows, so they were almost invisible.

When Leopard tried to follow them, he stood out like a bright-yellow sunflower against a dark fence. He could not hunt at all. Giraffe and Zebra saw yellow Leopard right away, and ran off deeper into the forest.

Leopard grew very hungry. He had to do something. So he went to his friend Man.

“Can you help me?” the Leopard asked Man. “I am yellow all over, and when I hunt in the forest, everyone can see me coming.”

“Yes, I can help you,” said Man.

So the Man carefully dipped his five fingertips in black ink and painted spots all over Leopard's fur. Now Leopard could blend into the shadows, and once again he became a great and powerful hunter! And that is why the Leopard has spots today.

## Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables

**Student:**

### **Story: Why the Cat Kills Rats**

Once upon a time, a long time ago, there was a great King, who had ruled for fifty years. The King had a very faithful cat who worked as his housekeeper, and a rat who worked as his house-boy. The king was very fond of the cat. It was the cat's job to watch over the King's store, where all his food was kept. The cat had worked for the King for many years.

The rat was very poor. He fell in love with one of the king's servant girls, but was unable to give her any presents, because he had no money.

At last the rat thought of the king's store, where all the food was kept.

“I could steal some of the King's food and give it to my sweetheart,” thought the rat. “The King has so much food, he will never notice.”

So in the night time, the rat chewed a hole in the roof of the store. Being quite small, he had little difficulty squeezing through the hole in the roof and getting into the store. He then stole some corn and pears, and gave them to his sweetheart.

At the end of the month, the cat had to count all the things in the store, and give the numbers to the king. When she counted up all the bags of corn, and the piles of pears, she found that a lot was missing.

“Someone has been stealing your corn and pears,” she told the King.

The king was very angry at this, and asked the cat for an explanation. But the cat could not explain where the corn and pears had gone. Then one of her friends told her that the rat had been stealing the corn and giving it to the girl.

When the cat told the King, he was very angry. He called both the cat and the rat to the throne room.

“You are both fired,” said the King. “You must leave my house.”

The King's guards chased the cat and the rat from the palace.

The cat was so angry at losing her job that she jumped on the rat and ate him up.

Ever since that time whenever a cat sees a rat she jumps on it, and eats it, because she is still angry at losing her job with the King.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: The Goose With the Golden Eggs**

One day a man went to the nest of his Goose and found an egg all yellow and glittering. When he took it up it was as heavy as lead.

He was going to throw it away, because he thought a trick had been played upon him. But he took it home, and soon found to his delight that it was an egg of pure gold.

Every morning the same thing occurred, and he soon became rich by selling his eggs.

As he grew rich he grew greedy. Thinking to get all the gold at once, he killed the Goose and cut it open.

When he did, there was nothing inside. He never got any more golden eggs after that.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: The Golden Touch**

A Tale from Ancient Greece

There was once a king named Midas who did a good deed was granted a wish. For his wish, Midas asked that whatever he touched would turn to gold.

His wish was granted!

Excitedly, Midas went about touching all sorts of things, turning them into gold.

Soon Midas became hungry. He picked up a piece of food, but he couldn't eat it, for it had turned to gold in his hand!

"I'll starve," moaned Midas, "Perhaps this was not such a good wish after all!"

The king's daughter, seeing he was upset, threw her arms about him to comfort him, and, she too turned to gold!

"The golden touch is no blessing," cried Midas. He went to the river and wept. The sand of that river turned as yellow as "fool's gold" for it is there, they say, that King Midas washed away the curse of the golden touch with his own tears.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: The Sunflower**

A Tale from Ancient Greece

Once there was a mermaid who wore beautiful green gowns made of seaweed. Her long, golden hair floated about her at the bottom of the sea.

One day she heard a song about a golden light above the water. The mermaid wanted to see it!

She swam to the surface and climbed onto the shore. She saw the golden light described in the song. It was the sun! She sat happily gazing at it all day.

When she at last turned to the water, she saw her reflection. Her golden hair had become yellow petals; her green gown had become leaves. Her tail had become roots. She had become a sunflower, a small version of the sun she loved.

To this day, the sunflowers turn on their stems all through the day so that they can gaze upon the sun as it travels the sky.

## **Story Texts – Pourquoi Tales and Fables**

**Student:**

**Story: Sun and Moon**

Father Sun and Mother Moon lived inside the huge hollow rocks of Rock House. Their light did not shine from the sky, so the People and the Animals lived in darkness.

Now Coyote, who was always playing tricks, thought it would be great fun to dump some fleas on Father Sun and Mother Moon. So he began to gather the fleas and place them in bags. On his way to Rock House he met Rabbit.

When Coyote bragged about his bags of fleas, Rabbit would not believe him. They began to argue. Between them, Rabbit and Coyote began to tug on one of the bags. As Rabbit yanked it from Coyote's grasp, the bag opened and the fleas spilled out on the ground. And to this day, Rabbit and Coyote are always scratching fleas.

Still, Rabbit liked Coyote's idea of taking the fleas to Rock House. So together they trudged up the peak to Rock House carrying the bags of fleas. As they walked they tried to think of a plan to get the fleas inside of Rock House.

When they reached the top of the peak, Rabbit began to dig quietly so Father Sun and Mother Moon would not be alarmed. As soon as Rabbit backed out of the hole, Coyote shook the bags of fleas down the opening. Then they plugged up the hole and ran away feeling very pleased with themselves.

The fleas soon covered Father Sun and Mother Moon. When Mother Moon could no longer stand the fleas, she flew out of Rock House and began to circle the Earth. Father Sun followed Mother Moon out of Rock House. They raced around the Earth trying to get rid of those fleas.

That is why, to this day, the Sun follows the Moon across the sky.