

Assignment 13: Modern Fable

A fable is a short story that shows something that is true about life and has a moral or proverb (such as *Waste not, want not* or *He who hesitates is lost*) listed at the end.

Usually fables are about animals who can talk and act like humans. A fable teaches a lesson or satirizes human beings and their behavior (makes fun of the way people behave).

You probably remember fables from your childhood. Two common examples are “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” (a boy keeps yelling “Wolf!” to townspeople and shepherders so often that people ignore him; so when the wolf really comes and he yells, no one comes to his aid, and he is consumed by the real wolf! Moral: *No one believes a liar even when he tells the truth.*) and “The Tortoise and the Hare” (*Slow and steady usually wins the race*)

The moral of most fables are still true today – but times have changed, and some morals or proverbs may be out of date or have a new twist of meaning in today’s society. Is “*A man’s home is his castle*” still true?

You are to write a modern fable – a story with a modern moral that says something that is true about life today. You may use an old proverb but give it a new meaning in the story, or you may make up your own moral. Your story need not be long, but it must reflect modern life and have a moral listed at the end. Write at least one page.

Read the modern fables written by James Thurber, then write on of your own. Be inventive – thing *modern* – write what you know. After all, *Nothing ventured, nothing gained ... no guts, no glory ...*