



## **A Reader's Theater Script**

Retelling by Julie Harding

Word Count: 692

### **Characters**

Narrator

Fox

Stork

Crow

Peacock

Juno

Town Mouse

Country Mouse

Wolf

Shepherd

Dog

### **Scenes**

Fox and Stork

Fox and Crow

Crow and the Pitcher

Peacock and Juno

Town Mouse and Country Mouse

Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Dog and his Shadow

**Note:** Each scene is a separate fable. Students may play more than one character.

### **Fox and Stork**

**Fox:**

I think I'll invite Stork over for some soup.

**Narrator:**

Fox put the soup in flat dishes.

**Stork:**

But I can't eat this soup. My long beak can't scoop it up when it's in this flat dish.

**Fox:**

Well, I can lap up the soup just fine. You'll have to go hungry.

**Narrator:**

Stork did go hungry, and Fox ate up all the soup. The next day, Stork invited Fox over for dinner. He put some meat in a jar with a long neck.

**Fox:**

But Stork, I cannot reach the meat.

**Stork:**

I can reach it just fine with my long beak. This time, you will go hungry.

**Fox:**

It was wrong of me to be mean to you.

**Stork:**

Remember, if you do mean things to others, they might do mean things to you.

## Fox and Crow

**Narrator:**

Fox saw Crow fly to her favorite branch.  
Crow had a piece of cheese in her beak.

**Fox:**

You are the prettiest bird I have ever seen.

**Crow:**

Me?

**Fox:**

Oh, yes. You fly so fast and gracefully.

**Crow:**

Why, that's so nice of you.

**Fox:**

I bet you can sing, too.

**Crow:**

Oh, you are too kind. I'll sing for you right now.  
LAA!

**Narrator:**

As soon as the crow opened her beak to sing,  
the cheese fell into the fox's mouth.

**Fox:**

Thank you very much. That cheese was all I really wanted.

**Crow:**

Oh, I should never trust strangers who try to flatter me.

### **Crow and the Pitcher**

**Narrator:**

Crow had been flying all day, and she was very thirsty. She saw a pitcher half full of water.

**Crow:**

I'm so thirsty, but my beak is too short to go down the neck of the pitcher.

**Narrator:**

Crow tried tipping the pitcher.

**Crow:**

No, it's too heavy.

**Narrator:**

Crow saw that there were pebbles all over the ground. She dropped pebbles one at a time into the pitcher.

**Crow:**

This is taking a very long time, but the water is rising.

**Narrator:**

Soon, the water rose to the top. Crow drank all she wanted.

**Crow:**

Doing things little by little can be just as good as doing them all at once.

### **Peacock and Juno**

**Narrator:**

Peacock came to the goddess Juno.

**Peacock:**

People laugh at my funny voice. The tiny nightingale makes everyone happy with his beautiful voice. Why can't I have a beautiful voice, too?

**Juno:**

You should not be jealous of the nightingale. The feathers of your neck shine with every color of the rainbow. Your tail looks like it is covered in gems.

**Peacock:**

But can't I have a beautiful voice, too?

**Juno:**

Nobody has everything. The falcon is fast. The eagle is strong. The parrot can speak. The nightingale has a pretty song. And you are big and beautiful. You are special just as you are.

### **Town Mouse and Country Mouse**

**Narrator:**

The poor country mouse came to visit his cousin, the rich town mouse.

**Country Mouse:**

Wow, there are so many things to do in the city. I've never seen so many other mice.

**Town Mouse:**

We must be careful. There is also a cat that lives in the house. She will kill us if she can.

**Country Mouse:**

A cat? I think I would rather be poor and live in the country than be rich and live in fear. I think I'll be leaving now.

**Town Mouse:**

Maybe it is better to live simply and be safe than to live in luxury and be afraid.

**Wolf in Sheep's Clothing**

**Narrator:**

Wolf put on a costume to look like a sheep. Then he went to a nearby pasture.

**Wolf:**

Now to sneak in and eat some tasty sheep!

**Shepherd:**

Oh, look, here's a sheep that I've left behind. Go on into the pasture, now.

**Wolf:**

Ha! Now I can feast on this young lamb.

**Shepherd:**

Hey, what are you doing? You're not a sheep at all! Get out of my pasture and never come back. From now on, I'm going to make sure that none of my sheep have sharp teeth before I let them in the pasture. Things aren't always what they seem.

## Dog and His Shadow

**Narrator:**

Dog was walking across a bridge over a stream. He had a nice piece of meat in his mouth.

**Dog:**

Hey, there's another dog in the stream below me. Wait a minute, he's got a piece of meat, too. I want that piece of meat.

**Narrator:**

The dog snapped at the piece of meat, but his own piece of meat fell into the water.

**Dog:**

It was only my own reflection. I should not have been greedy for more, because I lost what I already had.