

# Moral Stories

## 1. A Thirsty Crow

(57 Times)

It is proverbial to say that **no pain, no gain**. Let's relate the story "A Thirsty Crow" to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

In a spell of dry weather, when birds can find very little water to drink, a crow was dying with thirst. He flew here and there to quench his thirst, but in vain. He could not find water anywhere. Luckily, flying over a garden, he saw a pitcher in it. A ray of hope relieved him. He quickly landed to drink water. But his heart started to sink again when he looked into the pitcher. There was water in it, but it was very low. The water was far beyond the reach of his beak. He was disappointed, but his raging thirst compelled him to find out some solution. As **necessity is the mother of invention**, he hit upon a plan to satisfy his thirst.

**Everybody wants happiness, nobody wants pain,  
But you can't have a rainbow without a little rain."**

(Anonymous)

The plan was to cast some pebbles into the pitcher so that his beak could reach water. He flew away, fetched pebbles one by one, and dropped them into the pitcher. His efforts proved successful. His happiness knew no bounds when the water level began to rise. He kept fetching pebbles and dropping them into the pitcher. Although he was tired, he continued his efforts, believing that **where there is a will, there is a way**. At last the water rose up to the level of his beak. He drank water and flew away happily.

The story teaches us a lesson that struggle is necessary to achieve something, and that we should work with patience and wisdom in times of adversity.

**Moral: No pain, no gain.**

(16 Times)

**Other possible morals**

- **God helps those who help themselves.**
- **Try, try again.**
- **Necessity is the mother of invention.**
- **Where there is a will, there is a way.**

(12 Times)

(11 Times)

(10 Times)

(8 Times)

## 2. The Hen that Laid Golden Eggs

(45 Times)

It is proverbial to say **“Haste makes waste.”** Let’s relate the story **“The Hen that Laid Golden Eggs”** to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once there lived a man in a village. He was so poor that often he had nothing to eat. He prayed for prosperity and dreamed of a happy life. He longed for huge wealth. Ultimately, his prayers bore fruit and his dreams came true.

One day, he came to know that his hen had laid an egg of gold. He was surprised. His happiness knew no bounds at this miracle. He immediately went to the nearest goldsmith who confirmed that the egg was of gold. The poor man sold it and got a lot of money. As **every dark cloud has a silver lining**, the poor man's hard days were over. The hen laid an egg of gold every third day. He was overjoyed. He sold it at a high price and soon became a very rich man. Everyone envied his fate, but he was not satisfied. He was overpowered by greed. He wanted to become the richest person in the village.

**“Greed is a fat demon with a small mouth and whatever you feed it is never enough.” – Janwillem**

One day he decided to slaughter the hen. He wanted to get all the eggs at one time. A wise man advised him not to do such a foolish thing. But greed and impatience had made him mad, and he did not listen to him. The lust for the wealth forced him to slaughter his hen. But he was shocked to know that there was only one egg in her stomach. Now he realized his foolishness, but it was too late to mend.

**“It was not curiosity that killed the goose who laid the golden egg, but an insatiable greed that devoured common sense.” – E. A. Pachiareri**

**Moral: Greed is a curse.**

(21 Times)

Other possible morals:

- **Haste makes waste.** (16 Times)
- **Look before you leap** (6 Times)
- **All covet, all lose.** (2 Times)

**3. The Hare and the Tortoise****(40 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**Slow and steady wins the race.**” Let’s relate the story “**The Hare and the Tortoise**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once there was a speedy hare who bragged about how fast he could run. A tortoise also lived nearby. He would make fun of the tortoise for his laziness and slow speed. The tortoise bore it with a smiling face. But the repeated taunting remarks of the hare made him angry. One day the tortoise challenged him to run a race with him.

On the appointed day, they fixed a distant point as their destination. The race started. The hare ran as fast as he could. Within no time, he was out of sight. He was over-confident of his success. He was sure that the tortoise would take a whole day to reach the destination. He thought that he should take some rest. He lay down in the shade of a tree and went to sleep. Meanwhile, the tortoise continued walking slowly but steadily. He did not lose heart. After some hours, he passed by the hare who was enjoying a sound sleep.

**“Long-term consistency trumps short-term intensity.” — Bruce Lee**

He was dead tired, but he continued walking. He was determined to reach the winning point before the hare. He was now near his destination while the hare was far behind. The hare woke up after a long sleep. He thought that the tortoise would still be far behind. Lost in his purple thoughts, he jumped up and reached the fixed point. But he was ashamed to see that the tortoise was already there, waiting for his friend.

**Possible Morals:**

- **Slow and steady wins the race.** **(21 Times)**
- **Pride hath a fall.** **(19 Times)**

**4. The Woodcutter and His Axe****(29 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**Honesty is the best policy.**” Let’s relate the story “**The Woodcutter and His Axe**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Many years ago, there lived a woodcutter in a village. Although he was poor, he had strong faith in God and the fruit of hard work. He earned his living by cutting and selling wood in the town. He was happy with his life. One day he was cutting down a tree on the steep bank of a river. Unfortunately, his axe slipped from his hand and fell into the river. The axe was the only source of earning his livelihood. As he did not know what to do, he started weeping.

**“No legacy is so rich as honesty.” –William Shakespeare**

Meanwhile, an angel happened to pass there. He saw the woodcutter weeping and praying to God. The angel took pity on his condition. He approached the woodcutter and asked the reason for his sorrow. The woodcutter told him his sad story. The angel felt sorry for the woodcutter and assured him of his help. He dived into the river in order to find out the lost axe. He appeared from the water with a gold axe in his hand. But the woodcutter refused to get it and said that it was not his axe.

**“Honesty is the rarest wealth anyone can possess.” – Josh Billings**

The angel dived into the water for the second time and appeared with a silver axe. The poor woodcutter was still sad. He shook his head and requested him to find out his own axe that was made of iron. The angel dived into the water for the third time and came out with an iron axe. Beaming with joy, the woodcutter cried at the top of his voice: "This axe belongs to me!" He thanked the angel for helping him. The angel was greatly impressed by his honesty. He gave him all the three axes as a reward.

**Moral: Honesty is the best policy.**

**(29 Times)**

## 5. The Lion and the Slave

(25 Times)

It is proverbial to say “**Kindness never goes unrewarded.**” Let’s relate the story “**The Lion and the Slave**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once upon a time there was a slave. He was a very hardworking person. He used to work from dawn to dusk. But his work and faithfulness could never please his cruel master. Instead of providing him with proper necessities of life, his master punished and abused him time to time. The slave was sick of this inhuman treatment and torture. He decided to get rid of his cruel master.

One day he left the house and ran away to a jungle. He was tired and wanted to take some rest. He found a safe place and went to sleep. He was enjoying a sound sleep when a noise woke him up. He got up and tried to find the cause of disturbance. He saw a lion that was lying nearby and moaning with pain. He did not want to invite any trouble, so he decided to run away. He was about to run when he saw the lion's swollen paw. He could see a thorn in its paw. He took pity on the lion and decided to help him. Fearfully, he came near the lion, took out the thorn from its paw and ran away.

**“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”** (Anonymous)

After some days the slave was arrested. He was ordered to be thrown before a hungry lion. On the fixed day, he was taken into an arena. There was pin drop silence in the arena. Suddenly, he heard an angry roar of a lion. Out of fear, he closed his eyes. He was sure that there was no escape now. The lion reached near him. But instead of attacking him, it started licking his feet. Everyone was surprised at this sight. The slave opened his eyes and found the same lion before him whom he had helped in the forest. The slave was set free due to his kindness.

**Possible Morals:**

- **Kindness never goes unrewarded.** (13 Times)
- **Do good, have good.** (11 Times)
- **One good turn deserves another.** (1 Time)

**6. A Foolish Stag****(24 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**All that glitters is not gold.**” Let’s relate the story “**A Foolish Stag**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once upon a time there lived a stag in a forest. He was proud of his swift speed, sharp horns, and well-built body. He used to stroll in the forest and enjoyed his life. One day he felt thirsty and went to a nearby stream to quench his thirst. While drinking water, he saw his reflection in the transparent water of the stream. He was pleased to see his beautiful horns that were like a crown on his head. He was intoxicated by their beauty and could not help praising them. His wandering eyes then landed on his thin legs. He was grieved at their ugliness. He regarded them as a disgrace upon his beautiful body.

He was lost in these thoughts when he heard the bark of some hounds. This trouble pulled him back from his thoughts. He was frightened and started running for his life. His thin legs helped him and within no time he was out of reach of the hounds. He came to a thick part of the forest. Everything was in his favour as he was completely out of sight of his enemies. Suddenly his pointed horns got entangled in a thorny bush. As they say **out of frying pan into the fire**, he tried his best to get rid of the bush but in vain.

Soon the hounds overtook him and tore him into pieces. His thin legs which he hated proved a blessing for him and took him away from the danger. His awesome horns which he loved turned out to be the cause of his painful death.

**Moral: All that glitters is not gold.****(24 Times)**

**7. Two Friends and a Bear****(23 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**A friend in need is a friend indeed.**” Let’s relate the story “**Two Friends and a Bear**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once upon a time there lived two friends in a village. One of them was sharp and selfish while the other was innocent and selfless. They were living in extreme poverty. One day, they decided to try their luck in some city. They promised to help each other through thick and thin. They set off on a journey to materialize their dreams. They passed through a forest. They covered most of the journey peacefully. Once or twice they were in danger, but they faced the danger bravely. But one incident proved that fair-weather friends leave you in trouble.

One day when they were passing through a thick part of the forest, they came across a bear. The sharp and selfish friend hurriedly climbed up a tree. He left his friend at the mercy of the bear. But the other one could not find time to save himself. He lay on the ground helplessly and held his breath. He pretended to be dead and started praying to God for his life. The bear sniffed him from head to toe, but he did not move at all. Considering him dead, the bear left him unharmed and went away into the forest.

**“A true friend sticks bus us when everybody leaves us.” (Anonymous)**

When the bear was well out of sight, the first friend climbed down the tree and came to his friend. He asked him in a mocking tone what the bear had said in his ear. The friend, who was already grieved at the selfishness of his friend, disliked his tone. He replied angrily that the bear had advised him never to trust selfish friends who leave in the lurch. With these words, he said his friend good bye and went away alone to reach his destination.

**Moral: A friend in need is a friend indeed.**

**(22 Times)**

**Other possible moral:**

**Beware of false/selfish friends.**

**(1 Time)**

**8. The Jackal and the Camel****(22 Times)**

It is proverbial to say **“As you sow, so shall you reap.”** Let’s relate the story **“The Jackal and the Camel”** to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once upon a time a jackal and a camel lived near a river in a forest. They were good friends. One day the jackal felt hungry. He knew that there were a lot of melon-fields on the other side of the river. He could have plenty of melons to eat there, but he did not know how to swim. He knew his friend camel could do so. He went to his friend and requested him to take him there. The camel agreed at once. The jackal jumped on his back, and the camel swam across the river, carrying him.

When they safely reached there, the jackal jumped down and soon they entered the melon-field. The jackal had now eaten to his fill but the camel had hardly taken a mouthful. The jackal wanted to go back. He was sure that the camel would not agree to return before eating to his fill. He thought of trick and started howling at the top of his voice. The villagers heard him at once. They ran to save their fields. Seeing the villagers, the jackal hid himself, but they saw the great camel. They fell on the camel with sticks. They beat him well and drove him away.

**“Life is your own reflection; what you send out comes back.” (Anonymous)**

The camel ran towards the river and entered it. The clever jackal was waiting for the same moment. He came from nowhere and jumped on his back. The camel asked him angrily why he had howled and invited the trouble. The jackal answered that it was his habit to howl after a good meal. The camel got angry at his remarks, but he waded on silently. When they reached deep water, the camel stopped and said that it was his habit to roll over after a good meal. Saying this, he started rolling in the water. The jackal was drowned but the camel came home safely.

**Possible Morals:**

- **As you sow, so shall you reap.** **(16 Times)**
- **Tit for tat.** **(6 Times)**



**9. The Old Man and his Three Sons****(18 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**Union is strength.**” Let’s relate the story “**The Old Man and his Three Sons**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once there lived a farmer in a village. He had three quarrelsome sons who always quarreled with one another. The farmer was sick of their quarrels. He tried his best to create unity among them, but all his efforts proved fruitless. His sons always turned a deaf ear to his advice. This grief told upon his health and he took to bed. He was worried. He wanted to unite his sons before his death.

One day he hit upon a plan and asked them to bring some sticks. When they had brought the sticks, he told them to tie all the sticks in a bundle. Then he asked them to break the bundle one by one. They were astonished, but obeyed. The struggle started. Everyone tried his best to break the bundle, but in vain. When they failed, he asked them to untie the bundle. One of them untied the bundle. He asked them to break the sticks one by one. It was not a difficult task now. So, all of them broke all the sticks within no time.

**“When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you.” – Churchill**

It was a right time for the farmer to teach them a lesson. He advised them that strength lies in unity. As long as the sticks were united, they could not break them. If they remained united like sticks, they would be strong and undefeated. But, if they kept on quarrelling, they would become weak and their enemies would crush them. They got the point and promised never to quarrel again.

**Moral: Union is strength.**

**(12 Times)**

**Other possible moral:**

**United you stand, divided you fall.**

**(6 Times)**

**10. Three Friends and a Bag of Gold****(16 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**Greed is a curse.**” Let’s relate the story “**Three Friends and a Bag of Gold**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once, three friends left their village for city to find some work there. They promised to stay together through thick and thin. On their way, they had to pass through a thick forest. When they were only half way through it, they saw a glittering object at some distance. They rushed and picked it up. It was a golden bag with a lot of gold in it. They were overjoyed at their good luck. As they were exhausted and hungry, they decided to eat and then divide the gold equally among themselves. So, one of the friends went to a nearby village to buy some food while the other two lay down in the shade of trees.

**“If you sow seeds of dishonesty today, you will reap the same tomorrow.” -- Anurag**

**Prakash Ray**

On his way to the village, the third friend started dreaming of getting all the gold himself. The greed tempted him to poison the food and kill his friends. On the other hand, the other two friends were also making similar plans. When the third friend came back with the food, they fell on him with their knives and killed him then and there. They divided the treasure equally between themselves, and sat down to eat the poisoned food. They were hungry. They ate heartily. The poison did its work and soon they were lying dead with the bag of gold coins mocking them for their greed and ill will. All the three wicked men carried out their cruel plans and harvested what they sowed.

**Moral: As you sow, so shall you reap.**

**(16 Times)**

**Other possible moral:**

**One who digs a pit for others himself falls into it.**

**11. A Messenger and a Horse****(13 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**A stitch in time saves nine.**” Let’s relate the story “**A Messenger and a Horse**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once upon a time a king had a messenger. He had proved his loyalty and responsibility many times. The king trusted him very much. Once, the king wanted to convey an important message to the commander of his army in the battle-field. The message could change the situation of the battle if conveyed in time. It was an important task, so the king called the messenger and gave him the responsibility.

He had limited time to reach the distant destination. Delay could prove fatal, so he decided to start his journey at once. While starting his journey, he found that one nail from the shoe of the horse was missing. He wanted to save time, so he ignored it and set off on his journey. On the way another nail came off but he did not care and continued his journey. Gradually, all the nails from the shoe of the horse slipped off and the shoe fell down. The horse started limping. He whipped his horse and tried to make it run fast but in vain. The foot of the horse was bleeding. It could run no longer because it was injured and exhausted. Soon he fell and could not get up again.

**“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”**

The messenger was helpless. It was getting late. The destination was not far, so he began to run to reach it. But it was too late. When he reached the battle-field, he heard shocking news. The king's army had been defeated. In saving a few minutes, he had lost many hours. He cursed himself for his carelessness and negligence, but **it is useless to cry over spilt milk**. His carelessness had caused an irreparable loss.

**Moral: A stitch in time saves nine.**

**(13 Times)**

**12. The Lamb and the Wolf****(12 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**Might is right.**” Let’s relate the story “**The Lamb and the Wolf**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once there was a naughty lamb. His mother loved her kid so much that she worried about the safety of the kid. His mother always warned him: “Be careful! You must not go into the forest. Wild animals live in there. They may threaten you. Sometimes they would eat you.” But the lamb never paid any attention to her advice.

One day, the lamb wandered off into the forest. There he saw a spring of water. He went near it to drink water. While he was drinking water, a wolf came there looking for something to eat. The lamb was not aware of the wolf for some time. There was no one besides these two animals to save the lamb from the wolf.

**“If you let the rule of ‘might is right’ reign, the ruthless shall inherit the earth.”**

“You know this forest belongs only to wild animals like me. Why have you come in here to take water from this spring? You will be punished for your boldness,” said the hungry wolf. The lamb knew that wolves were dangerous animals. “Mother has warned me about wolves. I am sure this fellow wants to eat me for his lunch. I must escape from this animal,” he thought.

“But the spring flows from your side, sir!” said the lamb, in a meek voice. The wolf was surprised to hear such an intelligent answer from the lamb. But the wolf was just looking for an excuse to kill the lamb. “How dare you argue with me? I think you are the same lame who abused me last year,” the wolf shouted.

“I was not even born then, sir!” the lamb said. “Then it would be your father or brother who abused me,” said the dangerous wolf. He attacked the innocent lamb and tore it into pieces.

**Moral: Might is right.**

**(12 Times)**

**13. The Bat****(8 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**A rolling stone gathers no moss.**” Let’s relate the story “**The Bat**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once upon a time all the animals and the birds gathered in a jungle. They were tense and upset. They were fed up with the rule of might is right. They wanted to fix the problem once for all. They decided to choose a king. But this decision caused a dispute between the animals and the birds. The animals considered themselves powerful and dominant. They wanted to make the king out of themselves. The birds claimed to be superior because of their agility and art of flight. They wanted to make a king out of themselves.

A war broke out between them. A clever bat was also there. Her behaviour and approach towards the problem was strange. She decided to win favour of both groups. When the birds seemed to win, she came to them and assured them her support. She claimed to be a bird as she can fly. But after some time when the situation appeared to be changed, she also changed her mind. When animals seemed to be victorious, she went to them and assured them her loyalty. She claimed to be an animal as she gives milk to her young ones. In this way she kept on changing the sides.

**“Waywardness does not pay in life.” (Anonymous)**

At last the animals won the contest and the war was over. The lion became the king of the jungle. The opportunist bat now went to them as an animal. But they had understood her double game. They turned her out saying that she was a bird, and not an animal. She went to the birds and wished to be considered a bird. But, as a rolling stone gathers no moss, they also turned her out saying that she was an animal, and not a bird. Since then she lives alone and comes out only in dark.

**Moral: A rolling stone gathers no moss.**

**(8Times)**

**14. The Fox and the Goat****(6 Times)**

It is proverbial to say **“Look before you leap.”** Let's relate the story **“The Fox and the Goat”** to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once upon a time there lived a fox in a jungle. He felt thirsty. His thirst made him restless and he left no stone unturned to search for water. At last he found a well in the middle of the jungle. There was water in the well but very shallow. Unfortunately, while looking into the well he slipped and fell into it. Out of fear, he forgot his thirst and started struggling to get out of it. He tried his best but in vain. All his efforts failed and he could not come out of the well.

**“Fools jump in where angels fear to tread.” – Alexander Pope**

Meanwhile, a goat passed nearby. Hearing the splashing sound, she peeped into the well. She was surprised to find a fox there. When the fox saw the goat, he got an idea to get out of the well. The goat asked him what he was doing in the well. The fox replied cunningly that the water of the well was very sweet. He daily came there to drink it. She would not have drunk such sweet water in her life. Saying this, he invited her to come down and have a drink. The foolish goat without thinking of the consequences, jumped into the well. The clever fox trapped the goat, climbed on her back at once and jumped out of the well.

Now the goat realized her folly. She requested him to help her to get out of the well. But the fox replied that she should have thought of the consequences before jumping into the well. He said that he was in a hurry and would see her next time. He suggested that she should cry at the top of her voice so that her master might come to rescue her. Saying this, he went away.

**Moral: Look before you leap.**

**(6 Times)**

**15. A Day Dreamer****(4 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**Do not build castles in the air.**” Let’s relate the story “**A Day Dreamer**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once upon a time, there lived a farmer in a village. He had a daughter who was very imaginative. She was unhappy with her life and was often lost in her day dreaming. Once her father gave her a bucket full of milk and asked her to go and sell it in the market. On the way, her day dreaming started working. Her imaginative flight took her into a prosperous future.

**“Don’t count your chickens before they are hatched.” (Anonymous)**

She thought that the market would be crowded with the people and milk would be sold like hot cakes. In this way, she would be able to earn a handsome amount of money. This money would enable her father to start a business. The business would flourish gradually and they would become prosperous within no time. She was advancing toward the market, absorbed in her purple thoughts. She was completely forgetful of her surroundings.

She thought that her wealth would make her life glamorous. Costly and colourful dresses would add to her beauty, and she would live a luxurious life. Thus, every handsome and rich man would be impressed by her wealth and beauty. There would be a lot of marriage proposals for her, but she would turn down these proposals. Intoxicated by her future dreams, she shook her head unintentionally. As she did so, the bucket full of milk fell on the ground and all the milk spilt out of it. This loss brought her back from her day dreaming. She realized her foolishness and cursed herself. But it was now useless to cry over spilt milk. She returned home sadly and soberly.

**Possible Morals:**

- **Do not build castles in the air.** **(3 Times)**
- **It is no use crying over spilt milk** **(1 Time)**

**16. The Hungry Fox****(4 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**Grapes are sour.**” Let’s relate the story “**The Hungry Fox**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once upon a time, a hungry fox was roaming here and there in search of food. Because of hunger, he was feeling weak and tired. Fortunately, he came to a garden where he saw a grapevine laden with bunches of grapes. The grapes looked quite ripe and juicy. The hungry fox walked into the vineyard where there was an ample supply of grapes. But there was one problem. The grapes hung higher than the fox could reach. He jumped and stretched to get those yummy grapes, but to no avail. Without wasting much time, the fox tried again to reach bunches of grapes by jumping as high as he could. He wore himself out jumping and stretching to get the grapes. So he sat down for a while to take some rest.

On feeling refreshed, he jumped again as high as he could. Disappointed by the fruitless efforts he had made to get the grapes that day, he gave up at last. Instead of accepting his failure, he remarked, “Though the grapes look juicy, I think they are sour. I wouldn’t eat them even if they were served to me on a silver plate.”

Someone has rightly said that **we tend to belittle the things we cannot achieve.**

**Moral: Grapes are sour.**

**(4 Times)**



**17. The Lion and the Rabbit****(4 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**Something is better than nothing.**” Let’s relate the story “**The Lion and the Rabbit**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush is a proverb that means the things we currently have are worth a lot more than the things we have a chance of getting. This saying is often used as advice or a warning for a person who is making risky decisions or is about to risk a lot over an unknown outcome. It means that the things we already own are far more valuable to us than things we hope to get. It is quite natural that we feel dissatisfied with what we have. We always crave for things we do not have. If we are satisfied with what we have, we will lead a happy life. If not, life gets miserable. The following story gives us wisdom and enlightenment about how we should guard against greed, stupidity or nonsense.

One day, a dog stole a piece of bone from a meat shop. The dog was very glad and wanted to reach home as soon as possible to enjoy the bone in peace. On his way, he came across a stream. He then came to a bridge over the stream holding the bone in his mouth. When he was crossing the bridge, he saw his own reflection in the clear water below. The foolish dog thought that it was another dog with a piece of bone in his mouth.

The dog then became very greedy to get it. He thought, "Oh, this dog seems to have got a better bone. I must try to get that bone too from him. It would be a grand feast". The dog wondered how he could acquire the other bone. Finally, he decided to snatch it from the other dog in the water below. So, the dog opened his mouth to bark. He barked at him and his own piece of bone fell into the water below. He too fell down in his attempt to get the bone back. The bone was carried away by the strong current of water.

The greedy dog who could have simply enjoyed his piece of bone, lost not only his prized possession, but also found himself struggling in the water. He realized that he had been really foolish in his conduct. His greediness made him suffer. Then the dog went away very disappointed, cursing himself and his greediness.

**“It is easy to despise what you cannot get.”**

**Possible Morals:**

- **A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.** **(2 Times)**
- **Something is better than nothing.** **(2 times)**

**18. The Merchant and the Robber****(2 Times)**

It is proverbial to say “**Blessing in disguise.**” Let’s relate the story “**The Merchant and the Robber**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

After a successful trade in a city, a merchant was riding back to his village. The weather was foggy and cloudy but he hoped to get home before the rain started. However, when he was riding through the woods, it started raining in torrents so that he could not travel further. So he stopped under a thick tree, cursing the rain which had forced him to stop at such a desolate place in the dark.

All of a sudden, a robber appeared from nowhere. He pointed his pistol at the merchant and asked him to hand over his horse and money to him. The merchant instead of handing over the things, jumped at the robber and gave him a severe blow, bringing him to the ground. The robber sprang up to his feet at once, and pulling the trigger, fired at the merchant. The pistol did not work because the gun powder in the bullet had got wet in the rain. The robber tried again and again but the pistol did not fire. Thereupon, the merchant held the robber in his strong arms and beat him so hard that he took to his heels at once. Then the merchant realized that the rain was a blessing in disguise which had saved his life.

**Moral: Blessing in disguise.**

**(2 Times)**

**19. Cry Wolf****(2 Times)**

It is proverbial to say **“Once a liar, always a liar.”** Let’s relate the story **“Cry Wolf”** to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once upon a time, there was a shepherd boy who used to take his flock of sheep to the hill to graze on the fresh green grass. Sitting there, he had nothing to do the whole day. One day, an idea struck him. To overcome his boredom, he cried out, **“Wolf! Wolf!”** All the men came running with their sticks but they found no wolf! The boy laughed.

Again after a few days, he cried out, **“Wolf! Wolf!”** and the villagers again came running up the hill only to find that the shepherd boy had fooled them. He laughed and laughed, seeing that he had succeeded in fooling them again. However, this time, the villagers were very angry, and they told him that if next time he cried out for help, they would not come.

Next day when his sheep were grazing, he suddenly saw a wolf. He cried out aloud **“Wolf! Wolf!”** But alas! No one came to rescue his sheep. The shepherd boy returned home crying with very few sheep. The wolf had taken away one of his sheep, and some of his sheep had fled. From that day onwards, he promised never to lie again.

This story teaches us a moral lesson that people refuse to believe a liar even when he is telling the truth.

**Possible Morals:**

- **Once a liar, always a liar.**
- **Do not cry wolf.**

**(2 Times)**

**20. The Child and the Robbers****(1 Time)**

It is proverbial to say “**Truth always triumphs.**” Let’s relate the story “**The Child and the Robbers**” to prove the truthfulness of this proverb.

Once, the parents of Abdul Qadir Gilani decided to send him to Baghdad for learning. At the time of his departure, his mother gave him forty golden coins. As she prepared supplies for his journey she sewed these coins in his clothes. She advised him to always speak the truth. In those days, people used to travel in groups for their safety from robbers. So, with a caravan, he started his journey to Baghdad. On the way, when the caravan was passing through a desert, a gang of robbers attacked them and robbed all the passengers of their possessions.

One of the robbers came to Abdul Qadir and asked what he owned. He replied that he owned forty golden coins. The robber searched him thoroughly to find the coins, but nothing was found on him. He asked the child where the coins were, and Abdul Qadir said that they were sown in his clothes. The robber was deeply impressed by this truth. He took Abdul Qadir to the leader of the` gang and told him the whole story. The leader asked Abdul Qadir why he had not saved his money by telling a lie. Abdul Qadir said that his mother had advised him to speak the truth always. Therefore, he had acted upon his mother’s advice.

The reply of Abdul Qadir moved the leader to tears. The leader thought that the little boy had preferred the advice of his mother to the golden coins while he had disobeyed Allah for them. He decided to give up all bad practices and evil deeds. He repented of his sins. All the robbers followed their leader and returned the valuables to the passengers.

**Moral: Truth always triumphs.****(1 Time)**