

## Literary Terms – Fables

I. Fables – a short fictional tale which uses animals as characters (personified) with the intent of teaching a moral (lesson).

A. Aesop – the most popular.

B. Aesop Fables Characteristics:

1. Teaches a lesson about life.
2. The tale reaches the climatic end with the moral.
3. The purpose of the story is not so much what happened, but what it teaches. The plot does not need to make sense or appear to be real.
4. The characters are few and dialogue, though essential, is minimal.
5. Main characters are usually named in the title and are generally stereotyped, such as the “sly fox” or the “busy ant.”
6. Language is concise and gets to the point.
7. The plot is simple with introduction of the characters and setting.
8. Simple dialogue with questions and responses.