Sonya Nevin, "Entry on: Aesop's Fables by Talleen Hacikyan, Michael Rosen", peer-reviewed by Susan Deacy and Hanna Paulouskaya. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/149. Entry version as of November 06, 2026.

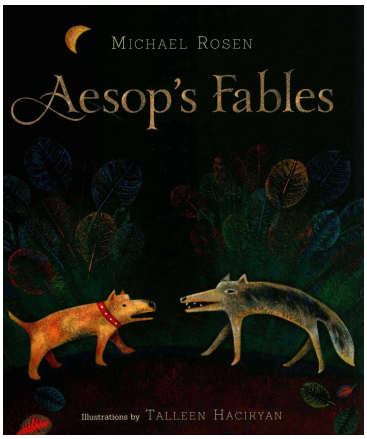
Talleen Hacikyan , Michael Rosen

Aesop's Fables

United Kingdom (2013)

TAGS: Aesop Aesop's Fables





Courtesy of Tradewind Books.

General information	
Title of the work	Aesop's Fables
Country of the First Edition	United Kingdom
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2013
First Edition Details	Michael Rosen, *Aesop's Fables*. Taleen Hacikyan, ill. Toronto: Tradewind Books, 2013, 28 pp.
ISBN	9781896580814
Genre	Didactic fiction, Fables, Illustrated works
Target Audience	Crossover
Author of the Entry	Sonya Nevin, University of Roehampton, sonya.nevin@roehampton.ac.uk
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Susan Deacy, University of Roehampton, s.deacy@roehampton.ac.uk Hanna Paulouskaya, University of Warsaw, hannapa@al.uw.edu.pl

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Creators



Talleen Hacikyan (Illustrator)

Talleen Hacikyan is a Canadian artist and art educator based in Montreal. She studied Anthropology at McGill University and trained in Fine Arts and Fine Arts Education at the Université du Québec à Montréal. Her work has been presented extensively in solo and group exhibitions.

Source:

Official website (accessed: July 2, 2018).

Bio prepared by Sonya Nevin, University of Roehampton, sonya.nevin@roehampton.ac.uk



Michael Rosen , b. 1946 (Author)

Michael Rosen is a British poet, performer, broadcaster and scriptwriter. As an author and editor he has published over 140 books. Rosen read English Literature at Wadham College, Oxford. He went on to work for the BBC on Play School, Schools TV and radio dramas until 1972. From that time he has worked as a free-lance author, writing poetry, non-fiction, novels, picture books, and retellings of traditional tales and myths, the latter reflecting his love of street rhymes, popular songs and folk stories. His work is predominantly for children, and is typically humorous.

Michael Rosen's publications include *Mind Your Own Business* (1974), *Wouldn't You Like to Know* (Puffin Books, 1977), *Quick Let's Get Out*

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of Here (Puffin Books, 1983), *Sad Book* (a children's book about bereavement, Candlewick 2004; Walker Books 2011), *Dear Fairy Godmother* (Walker Books, 2011) and the phenomenally popular *We're going on a Bear Hunt* (Walker Books 1993). Rosen teaches children's literature in universities and visits many schools with his one man show. He was UK Children's Laureate 2007-9.

Source:

Official website (accessed: June 25, 2018).

Bio prepared by Sonya Nevin, University of Roehampton, sonya.nevin@roehampton.ac.uk

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Additional information

Summary

Aesop [an introduction to *Aesop* by Dr J.R.C. Cousland, Univ. British Columbia]

- *Dog and Wolf*;
- *Fox and Grapes*;
- *Crow and Fox*;
- *Lion, Fox and Wolf*;
- *Wolf and Lamb*;
- *Mouse and Lion*;
- *Frog and Bull*;
- *Cockerel, Dog and Fox*;
- *Mosquito, Lion and Spider*;
- *Fir Tree and Thornbush*;
- *The Axe and the Trees*;
- *Partridge and the Fighting Cocks*;
- *Town Mouse and Country Mouse*.

Each story is laid out with one page for the tale and a full-page illustration on the facing page. The myths are told in the simple, direct language (note the minimal use of articles in the titles). They have a lively tone, with lots of direct speech, including some colloquialisms. Each fable has a section beneath the narrative in which the moral of the story is explicitly stated; the accessible, conversational style appears here too, and the morals match the stories well.

Analysis

Aesop's Fables retold as children's stories, intended to introduce children to the stories and to communicate their moral lessons.

Most of the illustrations could place the stories in any time or place, however the ones featuring humans, *The Axe and the Trees*, and *Town Mouse and Country Mouse*, locate the stories in the modern, Western world. All of the illustrations have a very dark tone; the backgrounds to the prints are all black, with the result that the skies are black. The characters are depicted in a heavily stylised manner, often with elongated bodies and/or snouts. Some might interpret the stylised images as being sinister, while others will find them more appealing. The absence of visual or textual details that signify antiquity places the book's emphasis on the morals of the stories rather than on

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learning from or about long ago, or explicit introduction to classical culture.

The Aesop section calls Aesop a "legendary figure," and refers to the traditions about him in Herodotus and Roman biography. It recommends W. Hanson's *Anthology of Ancient Greek Popular Literature* as a follow-up reading about Aesop. This section, written by JCR Cousland rather than Michael Rosen, appears to be aimed at adult readers rather than children, as the language is more complex and the tone more serious than that used in the stories themselves. This section offers the adult reader a context for the Fables, which some may find familiar while the background is unknown. Dr Cousland was invited by the publisher, as a specialist in antiquity. The decision to include his biography of Aesop indicates that the publishers wished to communicate the idea that the longevity of the stories is part of their value and appeal, even if that aspect is not emphasised through in the main body of the work.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Aesop Aesop's Fables
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Animals Friendship Knowledge Learning Morality

Further Reading

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