Elizabeth Hale, "Entry on: Aesop's Funky Fables by Vivian French , Korky Paul [of Hamish Vigne Christie Paul] ", peer-reviewed by Miriam Riverlea and Daniel A. Nkemleke. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/492. Entry version as of November 21, 2026.

Vivian French , Korky Paul [of Hamish Vigne Christie Paul]

Aesop's Funky Fables

United Kingdom (1997)

TAGS: Aesop's Fables





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Aesop's Funky Fables
Country of the First Edition	United Kingdom
Country/countries of popularity	United Kingdom, United States
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	1997
First Edition Details	Vivian French & Korky Paul, *Aesop's Funky Fables*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1997, 76 pp.
ISBN	9780241136201
Genre	Picture books
Target Audience	Children (also crossover)
Author of the Entry	Elizabeth Hale, University of New England, ehale@une.edu.au
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This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

Creators



Vivian French , b. 1945
(Author)

Vivian French (1945) was born in Exeter, England, and was educated at the University of Exeter. She worked in children’s theatre, both as an actor and a writer. She lives in Bristol, England, and has written dozens of picture books and novels for children.

Bio prepared by Elizabeth Hale, University of New England, ehale@une.edu.au



Korky Paul [of Hamish Vigne Christie Paul] , b. 1951
(Illustrator)

Korky Paul (real name Hamish Vigne Christie Paul) grew up in in Zimbabwe and trained in an art school in Durban, South Africa. He moved to Greece in the 1970s and began working for a publishing house, illustrating books to teach Greek children English. He was trained at the California Institute of the Arts. He went on to work on further children's illustration projects in Los Angeles and London before settling in Oxford, UK. He developed the hugely successful *Winnie the Witch* series with Oxford University Press. He illustrated *Aesop's Funky Fables* (author Vivian French, Puffin Books, 1999). He has won a number of prestigious awards, including the Kate Greenaway Award and the Red House Children's Book Award. His style is frequently energetic and humorous.

Source:

Official website (accessed: June 26, 2018).

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Additional information

Summary

The work is a selection of Aesop's Fables, retold for children in verse and prose, using rap and humorous techniques. All retellings have humorous illustrations, in a mixture of watercolours and line drawings.

The Fox and the Crow (8–13) is told in verse, using rap techniques of repetition and other poetic techniques: e.g.,

'Brother Crow

Puffed up his feathers with pride

Puffed up his feathers

Puffed up

Puffed

And opened his beak wide.

"CAW!" said the crow

"CAW!"

"Ho ho!" said the fox

(Fox fox fox fox fox fox fox)

As the cheese fell down to the ground.

"THANKS FOR THE CHEESE!" said the fox . . .'

The Boy who cried Wolf (14–23) is told in prose.

The Lion and the Mouse (24–31) is told in verse, from the perspective of the mouse, thanking the lion for letting him go then returning the favour 'And little/By little/By Little/I will chew right through/All the ropes/Until you/Are free/Like me' (30)

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The Fox and the Stork (32–39) is told in prose, of two old friends (adversaries) inviting one another to dinner. "I may be slow/ (Stump stump)/But I am steady./ Steady./ Steady.' (46)

The Hare and the Tortoise (40–47) is told in poetry, as a dialogue between the Hare and the Tortoise.

The Jackdaw and the Pigeons (48–53) is told in prose.

The Dog and the Bone (54–56) is told in poetry with sound-effects: 'GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!" said dog./ 'MINE!'/And he snarled at the dog GRRRRRRRRRRR!/And he snapped at the dog/ SNAP!!!! / SPLASH!!!!!/ No bone.'

The Bat, the Bramble and the Cormorant (56–65) told in prose.

The Wolf and the Crane (66–73) told in poetry.

The Traveller and the Bear (74–76) told in poetry.

Analysis

This book retells selected Aesop's fables, with an emphasis on the situational humour, come-uppance, and revenge aspects, and with a seeming goal to be read out loud (as evidenced by the many sound-effects and repetitions in the storytelling). It anchors the stories firmly in an oral tradition. The illustrations are deliberately comic in style.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

Aesop's Fables

Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture

Animals Morality

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