

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Ballads	
The Arkansas Traveler	5
The Mermaid	6
Annie Laurie	8
The Ballad of Jesse James	9
Poetry	
A Noiseless Patient Spider	12
A Poison Tree	13
Daffodils	14
A Narrow Fellow in the Grass	15
Jabberwocky	16
The Spider and the Fly	18
Proverbs	
Various Proverbs	20
Proverbs about Animals	21
Proverbs about Patience	22
Inspirational Proverbs	23
Songs	
America the Beautiful	24
Clementine	26
Polly Wolly Doodle	28
The Big Rock Candy Mountains	30
Red River Valley	31
Señor Don Gato	32
Waltzing Matilda	34
Historical Documents, Speeches, and Songs	
The Star-Spangled Banner	36
Preamble to the Constitution of the United States	37
The Bill of Rights	38
Yankee Doodle	40
The Concord Hymn	42
The Gettysburg Address	43
Tongue Twisters	
Various Tongue Twisters	44

Table of Contents *(cont.)*

Fables

The Fox and the Grapes	51
The Ant and the Dove	52
The Bear and the Two Travelers	53
The Crow and the Pitcher	54
The Father and His Sons	55
The Lion and the Mouse	56
The Wind and the Sun	57
Belling the Cat	58

Essays

Great-Horned Owls	59
The Art of Photography	60
The Joy of Backpacking	61
Rabbits Make Good Pets	62
You Can Run a 5K Race	63
Write to an Author	64
Laura Ingalls Wilder	65

Monologues

Alice in Wonderland	66
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	67
Romeo and Juliet	68
As You Like It	69
The Boor	70
An Ideal Husband	71

Novel Excerpts

From <i>Little Women</i>	72
From <i>Black Beauty</i>	74
From <i>The Call of the Wild</i>	76
From <i>The Jungle Book</i>	78
From <i>Peter Pan</i>	80

Readers' Theater

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!	82
Declaring Our Independence	84
Helping Mrs. Lee	86
A Trip to the Raptor Center	88
A Short History of the United States	90
Constitutional Convention	92
Meet Paul Bunyan	94
Famous Authors	96

Before You Read

Notice while you are reading the proverbs in this book that many of the themes are universal. For example, all of the following proverbs are about patience and understanding—even though they come from different countries all over the world.

It takes time to build castles. Rome was not built in a day.

~Irish proverb

Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a singing bird will come.

~Chinese proverb

As we live, so we learn.

~Yiddish proverb

Clouds gather before a storm.

~proverb of unknown origin

Deal with the faults of others as gently as with your own.

~Chinese proverb

Before You Read

The term “sour grapes,” which means to deny your desire for something because you can’t get it, was derived from this fable.

The Fox and the Grapes

One hot summer’s day, Fox was walking through an orchard when he came to a bunch of grapes ripe and purple on a vine. “Just the thing to quench my thirst,” he said.

Fox took a run and a jump but missed the bunch. He turned around again and cried, “One, two, three!” He jumped up but missed the grapes again. Once more, Fox tried to reach the tempting grapes. At last, he gave up and walked away with his nose in the air, saying: “I am sure those grapes are sour.”

Moral: It is easy to scorn what you cannot get.

~Aesop