

Unit
1

The Eagle and the Turtle

The Turtle was not satisfied with his life. He wanted to stop being a turtle.

"I'm tired of swimming about in the sea and crawling about on the beach, getting nowhere in particular," he grumbled. "I want to be able to fly in the air like an eagle."

He spoke to the Eagle about it.

"You're not built for flying," the Eagle told the Turtle. "You haven't any wings."

"Don't worry about that," answered the Turtle. "I've watched how the birds do it. I've watched them soar and glide, skim and dive. Even if I haven't got wings, I can make my four flippers act like four stout oars in the air, the way I do in the water. Just get me up there, and you'll see I can fly as well as any of the birds – probably better! Besides if you'll carry me as high as the clouds I'll bring you lots of rare pearls from the sea."

The Eagle was tempted, and carried the Turtle up to a great height.

"Now, then," cried the Eagle, "fly!"

But the moment the Turtle was on his own, he fell from the sky. He fell like a stone, and on a stone he landed. He struck with such force that he smashed into little pieces.

Aesop's Fables

Do you remember?

Copy these sentences. Fill each gap.

- The Turtle wanted to be able to _____ in the sky.
- He went to speak to the _____ about it.
- The Eagle said he couldn't fly because he didn't have _____.
- The Turtle promised the Eagle rare _____ if he helped him.
- When he tried to fly he fell like a _____.



More to think about

- Write a sentence to answer each question.
 - What words does the Turtle use to describe flying?
 - What does he have that he thinks will help him to fly?
 - How can we tell that the Eagle doesn't want to carry the Turtle high in the sky?
 - How does the Turtle persuade the Eagle to help him?
 - How does the writer describe how the Turtle fell?
- Copy these sentences and finish them in your own words.
 - The Turtle was not satisfied with his life because ...
 - He thought that if only he could fly he would be able to ...
 - The Eagle really didn't want to carry the Turtle into the sky because ...

Now try these

- Write the story in your own words, using no more than three sentences.
- Write two good things and two bad things about being a turtle.
 - Write two good things and two bad things about being an eagle.
- There are two 'morals' to this fable:

Be satisfied with what you are.

The higher you fly, the harder you may fall.

Write in your own words what each means.