

Fables

This is a small book, a collection of illustrated fables.

犬 quǎn *small dog
大 + 丶
large dog + drop



㺠 quǎn *pack of dogs
a modified 犬

In all of these fables, the pack of dogs is us, the audience. We should pay attention to learn important life lessons.

乌 wū crow
鸟 - 丶
bird - drop

The Crow You are probably familiar with Aesop's fable of the crow and the fox. A crow has cheese a fox wants. The fox asks the crow to sing. It does and drops the cheese. Moral: Do not trust flatterers. See in this character how the bird has dropped something? That's how we know it is a crow.

猪 zhū pig
㺠 + 者zhě
pack of dogs + hero

The Hero and the Pig For this fable we look no further than E.B. White's famous Wilbur the pig. He is loved and inspired by a true hero, Charlotte, who saves his life. Moral: Size of body doesn't determine size of love.

狗 gǒu dog
㺠 + 句
pack of dogs + sentence

The Sentence and the Dog Have you heard of the dog named Martha that ate alphabet soup and could subsequently speak? Not just bark works but speak whole sentences like "The quick brown dog jumped over the lazy fox." Moral: What you eat may go to your head. or Old dogs will learn new tricks when fed properly.

猫 māo cat

犛 + 苗 miáo

pack of dogs + seedling

The Seedling and the Cat Mother Cat was known throughout the neighborhood and among her friends as a master gardener. Everyone came to her for advice on when to plant, how to get the best yield and how to protect from pests. It was springtime and Mother Cat was out in the garden, of course, with her seedlings. A neighbor stopped by to chat. But this time the conversation was about teenagers. Mother Cat said, "Children are like seedlings. Give them space to grow."

狮 shī lion

犛 + 师 shī

pack of dogs + teacher

The Teacher and the Lion In the Lion King, Rafiki is the teacher who convinces Simba that his father's spirit lives on in him, and he must return home. Moral: Taking the advice of a teacher can make us lion-king of our situation.

猿 yuán ape

犛 + 袁 yuán

pack of dogs + Yuan

Yuan and the Ape Did you know that Edgar Allen Poe wrote the first modern detective story, not Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? It is called "The Murders in the Rue Morgue." Well, in our story, "Murder in Jianhe Lu" a man named Yuan is gagged with a scarf and buried alive. The detective is clued in to the true murderer, an ape, when witnesses all think they overheard a different language being spoken in Yuan's backyard, and animal hair is found on the body. Moral: If neighbors are going to snoop, they should be more thorough and look, not just listen.

狂 kuáng crazy

犛 + 王 wáng

pack of dogs + king

The Crazy King This is the fable of King Lear. After relinquishing his power and land to two of his daughters who falsely profess their love, the king becomes destitute and insane. Moral: Actions speak louder than words.

独 dú alone

犛 + 虫

pack of dogs + insect

The Insect All Alone Most insects in this 'hood stick with their own kind, living in packs. So, it always seemed odd to see Beetle scuttling the streets alone. He was a loner and answered to no one, despite the pressure of the gangs. When asked what gave him the courage, he just tapped on his armor. Moral: Sticks and stone may break your bones unless you are an insect loner.

犯 fàn criminal

犴 + 巳

pack of dogs + worm

The Criminal, "The Worm" When Shanghai Disney was built, the park knew a key to its success was protecting its intellectual property and only allowing official Disney merchandise to be sold inside the park. They were baffled, then, when shortly after the park opened, they caught vendors selling fake goods to park-goers who were waiting in line. They questioned all of their carefully-trained employees, and eventually discovered the criminal: "The Worm" who had dug a tunnel under the park fence and snuck in fake goods overnight. Moral: You can't worm your way to wealth.

狱 yù prison

犴 + 讠 + 犬

pack of dogs + microphone + small dog

The Microphone and the Small Dog at the Prison Pekingese was lost. Not physically, as it is impossible to get lost in prison, where your every movement is controlled. But, lost in purpose. How could life be meaningful when her dreams of fame and fortune had crumbled as her fraud was exposed? Now she was stuck in prison, fearful the other dogs would eat her alive. One day, the warden made an announcement. Local university students would be running a new program, giving prisoners a chance to learn podcasting. Instantly, Pekingese knew this was her destiny. Prison or no, the microphone would drive her forward. Moral: Even prisons provide freedom.

获 huò seize

艹 + 犴 + 犬

flowers + pack of dogs + small dog

Flowers Seized from the Small Dog Pekingese was fulfilling her dreams one by one. After she was released from prison, and her podcast had gone viral, she was now receiving speaking engagement invitations regularly. She should have been happy, but she had a recurring nightmare. She often dreamed that just as her speech had ended, as the audience was applauding and she was being presented with a bouquet, the flowers were seized from her hands, and the cheers turned to boos as Pekingese slunk off the stage. Moral: Seize the day because the night might seize you.

猴 hóu monkey

犛 + 侯 hóu

pack of dogs + marquis

The Marquis and His Monkeys (Adapted from Aesop) A marquis had some monkeys trained to dance. Being naturally great mimics of men's actions, they showed themselves most apt pupils. When arrayed in their rich clothes and masks, they danced as well as any of the courtiers. The spectacle was often repeated with great applause, till on one occasion a courtier, bent on mischief, took from his pocket a handful of nuts, and threw them upon the stage. The monkeys, at the sight of the nuts, forgot their dancing and became as indeed they were—monkeys instead of actors. Pulling off their masks and tearing their robes, they fought with one another for the nuts. The dancing spectacle thus came to an end, amidst the laughter and ridicule of the audience. Moral: Marquises might be monkeys underneath their finery, and so might we.

狼 láng wolf

犛 + 良 liáng

pack of dogs + halo

The Angel Wolf There is a Lakota legend of an angel wolf that nurtured an injured woman. The woman learned the wolf ways and taught them to her people. You can picture this angel wolf on top of a precipice with the full moon behind her head like a halo. Moral: What we fear can be our savior.

狐 hú fox

犛 + 瓜

pack of dogs + melon

The Fox and the Melon (Adapted from Aesop) One afternoon a fox was walking through a garden and spotted a big, round melon. "Just the thing to quench my thirst," said he. Taking a few steps back, the fox jumped and landed on the melon, but it just rolled a bit. Again the fox took a few steps back, ran, jumped, and tried to crack the melon open but still failed. Finally giving up, the fox turned up his nose and said, "It's probably unripe anyway," and proceeded to walk away. Moral: It is easy to despise what you cannot have.

狸 lí raccoon dog

犛 + 里 lǐ

pack of dogs + computer

The Computer and the Raccoon Dog Raccoon Dog was making his nightly rounds to the neighborhood trash cans when he came across a computer left out on someone's porch. Seeing the "apple" and thinking it would taste good, he pawed at it. The screen lit up! Surprised, but curious, he became absorbed by a swirling colorful screen saver. In fact, he

couldn't take his eyes off of it, and he died of starvation staring at it. Moral: Digital addiction is real. Raccoons not excepted.

猩 xīng orangutan

犛 + 星 xīng

pack of dogs + star

The Star Orangutan Orangutans are among the most intelligent primates—think of them as the star of the great apes. They use tools, build elaborate nests and may have distinct cultures within populations. As a result of their intelligence, they have starred in many works of fiction. Moral: It is easy to be a starry-eyed orangutan admirer.

猜 cāi guess

犛 + 青

pack of dogs + green-blue

Green or Blue: You Guess If you were asked to guess the future, where would you look for answers? Perhaps into a clear pool of water. Picture gazing into a green-blue pool and the light is just so to allow you to see a reflection of yourself. Moral: The most accurate predictor of your future is a green-blue mirror.

犹 yóu just like

犛 + 尤 yóu

pack of dogs + Goofy

Just Like Goofy Goofy, like other Disney characters, is an animal with human characteristics, mannerisms and even clothes. And, just like fables are animal stories meant to tell humans something about themselves, maybe we can all see a bit of our ourselves in Goofy. Moral: Are you a human acting like an animal or an animal posing as a human?

狠 hěn ruthless

犛 + 艮 gèn

pack of dogs + silver

Ruthless and Her Silver-work Ruthless was the daughter of a silver mine's foreman. She learned from the blacksmith to work in silver and became famous for her fine blades, razor-sharp silver spurs and silver-studded collars for guard dogs. Moral: Don't mess with ruthless silver-workers or their dogs.

狭 xiá narrow

犛 + 夹 jiā

pack of dogs + press from both sides

A Narrow Escape A pack of dogs is pressing on you from both sides as you run down the street. You leap over your fence into your yard—a narrow escape! Moral: Dogs sense fear.

猛 měng fierce

犴 + 孟 mèn

pack of dogs + Mencius

Mencius on Fierceness Although Mencius believed that human nature is righteous and humane and advised kings to that end, he had no illusions about the fierceness of the animal world. Moral: The Animal Kingdom is a dog-eat-dog world.

猎 liè hunt

犴 + 昔

pack of dogs + times past

Hunting in Times Past Here we're talking about the kind of hunting that was popular in times past with a pack of dogs to help locate the prey. Moral: Dogs have better noses than we do.

狡 jiǎo sly

犴 + 交 jiāo

pack of dogs + mingle

Sly Mingles Sly and the Family Stone was a popular American band in the 1970's. They were the first major American rock group to have a racially integrated, male and female lineup. Moral: Sly knows how to mingle.

猾 huá cunning

犴 + 骨

pack of dogs + bone

The Cunning Canine One behavior that demonstrates the cunning of dogs is the instinct to bury bones. Moral: Saving a little for later is a cunning idea.