## 10 things you need to know about Aesop

## and the fable you are about to read. .

- 1. Aesop was a Greek fabulist and storyteller.
- 2. Aesop was a native of Thrace who lived during 620-564 BCE.
- 3. Aesop was a slave by birth but earned his freedom as a reward for his learning and wit and became an adviser to kings and city states.
- 4. Aesop is famous for his short stories, known as "fables," a short tale that illustrates truth about life and human nature.
- 5. Each story teaches a lesson or moral.
- 6. Many of the tales associated with him are characterized by anthropomorphic animal characters.
- 7. Aesop is known as one of the greatest storytellers of all time. Fables are almost always attributed to him. He did not necessarily tell all the fables credited to him.
- 8. Aesop never wrote down any of his tales. His stories were told and retold many times before anyone ever wrote them down. With a surge in scholarly interest beginning toward the end of the 20th century, some attempt has been made to determine the nature and content of the very earliest fables which may be most closely linked to the historic Aesop.
- 9. Depictions of Aesop and his fables in popular culture over the last 2,500 years have included many works of art and his appearance as a character in numerous books, films, plays, and television programs. There are many common phrases that were made popular by his fables.
- 10. The fable "The North Wind and the Sun" was translated in 70 languages.

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