

# 1 The Crow and the Pitcher



A thirsty crow found a *pitcher* with some water in it, but so little was there that, try as she might, she could not reach it with her *beak*, and it seemed as though she would die of thirst within sight of the *remedy*.

At last she hit upon a clever plan. She began dropping *pebbles* into the pitcher, and with each pebble the water rose a little higher until at last it reached the *brim*, and the knowing bird was enabled to *quench* her thirst.

*Necessity is the mother of invention.*

pitcher [ˈpɪtʃər] (n.) a large jug 壺

beak [bi:k] (n.) the hard, pointed part of a bird's mouth 鳥喙

remedy [ˈremɪdi] (n.) a cure for an illness or something bad 解藥

pebble [ˈpebəl] (n.) a small, smooth stone 小圓石

brim [brɪm] (n.) the top edge of a cup, glass etc 杯緣

quench [kwentʃ] (v.) to drink enough to take away one's thirst  
解渴



"USE YOUR WITS"

## THE CROW & THE PITCHER

Now the cunning old  
Crow got his drink  
When 'twas low in the  
pitcher, just think!  
Don't say that he spilled it!  
With pebbles he filled it,  
Till the water rose up to  
the brink.



## 2 The Lark and the Farmer



A lark nested in a field of corn, and was *rearing* her *brood* under cover of the ripening grain. One day, before the young were *fully-fledged*, the farmer came to look at the crop, and, finding it yellowing fast, he said, “I must send round word to my neighbors to come and help me reap this field.”

One of the young larks overheard him, and was very much frightened, and asked her mother whether they hadn’t better move house at once.

“There’s no hurry,” replied she; “a man who looks to his friends for help will take his time about a thing.” in a few days the farmer came by again, and saw that the grain was overripe and falling out of the ears upon the ground.

“I must put it off no longer,” he said; “This very day I’ll hire the men and set them to work at once.”

The lark heard him and said to her young, “Come, my children, we must be off: he talks no more of his friends now, but is going to take things in hand himself.”

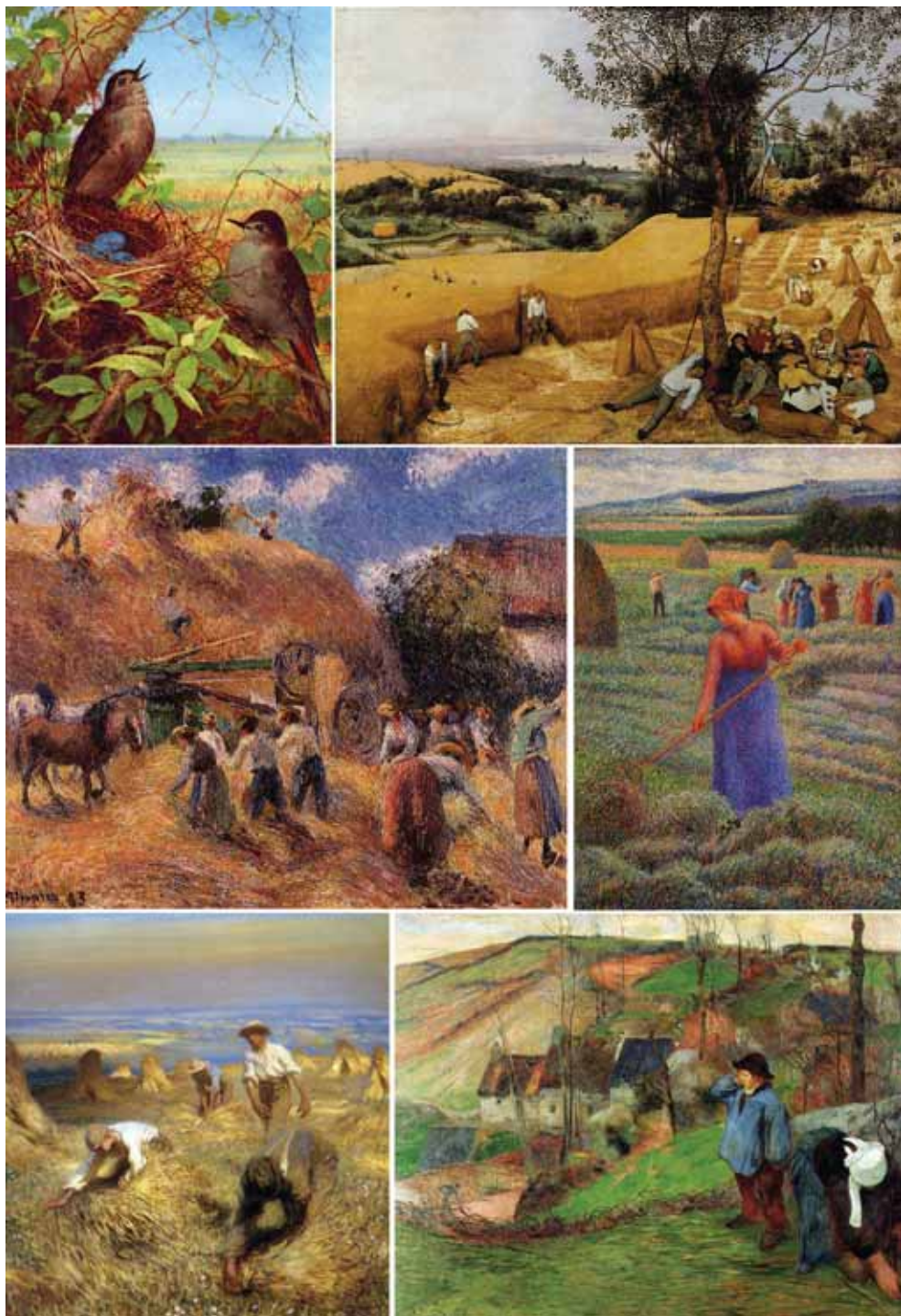
*Self-help is the best help.*

lark [lɑ:rk] (n.) a small brown bird which is known for its beautiful singing 雲雀

rear [rɪə] (v.) to feed and care for a family, animals etc while they grow up 撫養

brood [bru:d] (n.) a number of baby birds all hatched at one time 一窩雛鳥

fully-fledged: (a.) completely developed or trained 羽毛長齊的







### 3 The Milkmaid and Her Pail



A farmer's daughter had been out to milk the cows, and was returning to the *dairy* carrying her *pail* of milk upon her head.

As she walked along, she fell a-musing *after this fashion*: "The milk in this pail will provide me with cream, which I will make into butter and take to market to sell. With the money I will buy a number of eggs, and these, when hatched, will produce chickens, and by and by I shall have quite a large *poultry-yard*. Then I shall sell some of my *fowls*, and with the money which they will bring in I will buy myself a new gown, which I shall wear when I go to the *fair*; and all the young fellows will admire it, and come and make love to me, but I shall *toss* my head and have nothing to say to them."



Forgetting all about the pail, and suiting the action to the word, she tossed her head. Down went the pail, all the milk was spilled, and all her fine castles in the air vanished in a moment!

*Do not count your chickens before they are hatched.*

dairy [ˈdeəri] (n.) the place on a farm where milk is kept and butter and cheese are made 酪農場  
 pail [peɪl] (n.) a bucket 桶子  
 after the fashion: to some extent 至某個程度  
 poultry [ˈpoʊltəri] (n.) farmyard birds 家禽  
 fowl [faʊl] (n.) a bird, especially a hen, duck, goose etc 鳥禽類  
 fair [feə] (n.) a large market held at fixed times 市集  
 toss [tɒs] (v.) to throw, fling, or heave continuously about  
 甩；轉動



## [1] 烏鴉與水瓶

一隻口渴的烏鴉發現了一個水瓶，瓶子裡還有一些水，但是水只有一點點，所以牠的嘴巴就是碰不到瓶裡的水。看起來解渴的辦法就在眼前，但牠卻可能就這麼渴死。

終於，牠想到一個聰明的方法；牠開始把一顆顆小石子丟進水瓶裡，每當牠丟下一顆石子，水瓶裡的水就升高一點，一直到水面接近瓶口，這隻聰穎的烏鴉也解決了自己口渴的問題。

需要為發明之母。

## [2] 雲雀與農夫

一隻雲雀選在一片田裡築巢，在成熟的穀粒下撫養一窩小鳥。在

小鳥兒們羽翼未豐的某一天，農夫前來察看自己的收成，發現穀物成長得很快，於是說：「我得傳話給鄰居，請他們來幫忙收割。」

一隻小雲雀無意中聽到他說的話，非常害怕，跑去問媽媽牠們是不是立刻搬家比較好。

媽媽回答：「不必急，一個人會找朋友幫忙就表示事情還不急。」過了幾天農夫又來了，見到作物已經過熟，穀穗都已經落到地上了。

「這下我可不能再拖延了，」他說：「這段時間我得立刻雇幾個人來幫忙。」

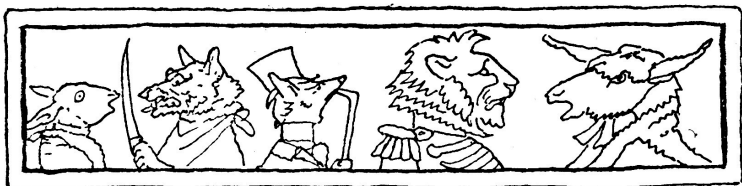
雲雀聽到他的話後，對孩子們說：「來吧，孩子們，我們得走了。現在他不再提要請朋友幫忙，而是自己開始採取行動了。」

求人不如求己。

## [3] 擠牛奶的姑娘

一個農夫的女兒出門擠牛奶，擠完後，她把裝著牛奶的桶子頂在頭上，返回農場。

她一邊走著，一邊不由得地想著：「這桶子裡的牛奶可以做成乳脂，我再把它做成奶油，拿去市場賣，這些奶油賣出的錢，可以買好幾個雞蛋；等雞蛋孵化，就會生出小雞，這麼不斷生下去，我就可以開個很大的養雞場；到時候我再拿



些小雞去賣，賣出的錢就可以為自己買件新裙子。我要穿著裙子去市集，到時候所有的青年都會欣賞我穿著新裙子，跑來向我求婚，但是這時我要別開頭，不跟他們說話。」

她一邊想著，還一邊做著動作，竟忘了頭上還有個桶子，就把頭甩開，於是桶子掉了下來，牛奶灑滿了一地，而她所有的夢想，也都在此時幻滅了！

勿打如意算盤。

#### [4] 烏鴉嘴上的肉

一隻烏鴉停在樹上，嘴裡啣著剛偷來的肉。狐狸看見了，就想把肉弄到手，於是牠站在樹下，極力讚美烏鴉是一隻美麗的大鳥，應該做鳥中之王；還說，如果烏鴉能夠發出聲音說話，那麼烏王的寶座必能手到擒來。

為了急於展現自己確實擁有說話能力，烏鴉呱呱大叫，口中的肉卻因此掉了。

這時，狐狸衝上去，一口把肉咬走，對烏鴉說：「如果你有大腦，也許還有可能當王吧！」

#### [5] 農夫和老鷹

有個農夫看到一隻老鷹被羅網抓住了，他覺得這隻老鷹長得很好看，一時不忍心，就把牠放走了。老鷹把農夫的救命之恩謹記在心。

有一天，老鷹看見農夫坐在一面快要倒塌的牆邊，便立刻飛下來，用爪子抓走農夫的頭巾。農夫一躍而起，追著老鷹跑；不過老鷹很快就將頭巾丟在地上。

農夫撿起頭巾，回頭看著方才的坐處，發現那堵牆已經坍塌了，才知道老鷹這麼做，原來是為了救他一命，心中相當感佩老鷹的知恩圖報。

#### [6] 夜鶯和老鷹

有一隻夜鶯棲息在一棵很高的橡樹上和往常一樣唱著歌。一隻正為找不到食物而發愁的老鷹看到後，立刻俯衝下來，把夜鶯抓走。

夜鶯知道自己難逃一死，於是就哀求老鷹放牠走。牠告訴老鷹說，牠的個子太小了，根本無法填飽老鷹的肚子；如果老鷹肚子餓，



應該去抓更大隻的鳥才對。

但是老鷹回答說：「假如我放走現在握在手裡的食物，而去追求還看不見的東西，那我可就是天下第一的大傻瓜了。」

在我們人類當中就有很多好高騖遠、不知珍惜眼前幸福的傻瓜。有些人愚蠢地放棄手中現有的一切，卻去追求那些看不見，也摸不著的東西。

### [7] 鴿子和烏鴉

一隻在鴿籠裡的鴿子，很以自己能孵出許多的小鴿子而自豪。

烏鴉聽見後，就對鴿子說：「我說鴿子啊，你就別再誇耀了，誰都知道，小孩越多，父母就越操勞。」

人也一樣，有些父母就像是子女的奴隸一般，小孩養得越多，父母就越辛苦。

### [8] 公雞和小偷

小偷破門進入一戶人家，卻發現除了一隻公雞外，什麼也沒有，於是就把公雞偷走了。

公雞在被殺之前為自己辯護說，在天還沒亮的時候，牠就把人們叫醒去工作，對人是很有幫助的，所以請小偷不要殺牠。

但小偷卻回答：「就是這樣，我更非殺你不可，因為就是你把人叫醒，才害得我們無法行竊。」

對正直的人有益的，往往就是對不義之徒最不利的。

### [9] 山鶉和捕鳥人

有一個人到捕鳥人的家裡作客，由於時間晚了，已經沒有什麼可以招待客人的菜了，因此主人便想抓他馴養的山鶉殺來宴客。

山鶉責備捕鳥人忘恩負義，過去牠幫了他那麼大的忙，誘使自己的同伴飛到羅網裡，好讓他抓住牠們，現在竟然想要殺牠。

捕鳥人回答說：「就是因為這樣才更應該殺你。既然你連對自己的同伴都沒有慈悲心了，那我還有什麼好顧慮的。」

出賣朋友的人，不僅被陷害的人怨恨他們，就連收買他們的人，也同樣憎惡他們。

### [10] 男孩與榛果

一個小男孩把手伸進裝滿榛果的罐子裡，想盡可能一次抓一大把。當他想把手伸出來時，手卻拔不出來，因為瓶口太小，而他的手抓了太多東西，沒辦法通過。