

A LONG WALK TO WATER

BOOK CLUB

22 October 2025

Folktales: The Animals Revolt & The Wisest Animal

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

An Animal Conference Determines The Wisest Animal

One day, all the animals on earth decided to find out which of them was the wisest. To this end' invitations to a conference on this matter were sent to every animal species. Every animal attended.

Each of the animal species proclaimed itself the wisest, each put forward its own arguments: the largest animals – their strength, but the small animals did not agree with this argument, reptiles and fish – their rule over the water elements, but the land animals rejected this, birds – their awareness of what is happening on the land due to the height of flight above the earth, but all the rest did not agree, and then man and woman – their control over the earth, almost everyone agreed.

Only two animals, a dog and a cat, refused to honor the man and the woman as the wisest. They challenged the animals to ask them one question, and if they answered "Yes", they would agree that they were the wisest.

The question was phrased this way: "Did you know that men and women are our servants? They look after us, let us live in their homes, and even let us jump on them. Can you use men and women in this way"? And all the animals answered "No", admitting that dogs and cats are the smartest creatures on earth.

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

Animals Revolt Against Men and Women For The First Time

Once upon a time, men, women, and all forest animals lived together in harmony. Cats and dogs were the closest of friends and messengers, understanding human language better than any other animal. The hyena was a very active animal, rising early in the morning to forage for extra food. In exchange for information from cats and dogs, she shared bones and a small amount of meat with them. In turn, the cats and dogs kept this communication secret from everyone else.

One day hyena asked the cats and dogs what the men and women were talking about, pointing to the animals and birds, but the answer to this question was silence, which alarmed the hyena. She threatened them that she would no longer share bones and meat with them until they revealed the secret to her. Since the cats and dogs needed food to feed their families, they told the hyena about a secret anti-animal plan: men and women would distance themselves from the animals, some would be slaughtered for food, there would be no more freedom for the animals, some would be used for transportation, others for milk and cultivation. If any of the animals resisted, they would be immediately killed. This plan was to be carried out that night. The hyena was mentioned as an animal rights activist and a desire for equal rights with men and women.

The hyena immediately gathered the animals for a meeting and told them that the men and women wanted to deprive them of their freedom and development. She suggested that while the lions and elephants would distract them, the others would cry out, the zebra would confuse them with its stripes, the elephant would break down the fence, and when everything was ready, the lion's roar would announce it.

The hyena's plan was carried out, but after a few days, some of the animals returned to the men and women. A few days later, the hyena returned and, seeing that the animals had been returned, found themselves in captivity, told them she didn't understand why they had returned despite being warned of the imprisonment that awaited them. A month later, the donkey told about the hardships of captivity, but the hyena said that now he could enjoy what he deserved.

This story explains why there are wild and domestic animals today.

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

YARIELA

THE WISEST ANIMAL

This folktale is about a debate between animals to find out which one is the most intelligent animal on the world. Large and small animals are proclaimed as winner just like the human beings are considered the winners.

Finally a question from the cat changed the opinion of the animals

ANIMALS REVOLT AGAINST HUMANS

Animals and humans lived in a supposed harmony until the hyena curious to know about the conversation of the humans find out the plans they have to the animals. An urgent meeting was held and some animals decided to scape and other did not. Finally some of them lived free and others in captivity

VOCABULARY BUILDER

FLAVIA

DEALT past (verb DEAL)

Distribute (cards) in an orderly rotation to players for a game or round. Example: The dealer dealt five cards to each player.

- **Dealt in:** To buy and sell as a business. Example: That company has always dealt in luxury products.
- **Dealt with:** To take action or solve a problem. Example: I can't believe how well you dealt with the bad news.

EVERLASTING

Describe something that is eternal, continuing without end, or used colloquially to exaggerate a prolonged period, sometimes to the point of being annoying. The term can also refer to specific works of art, literature, or film.

- (noun) Example: They believed their souls would live in the everlasting.
- (adj) Example: They promised each other everlasting love.

PLOT

- (noun) Conspiracy, intrigue; a plan made in secret by a group of people to do something illegal or harmful. Example: The police discovered a plot to overthrow the government.
- (noun) Storyline; the main events of a play, novel, movie, or similar work. Example: I didn't really understand the plot of that book.
- (verb) Secretly make plans to carry out (an illegal or harmful action). Example : They plotted to steal the money from the bank.
- (verb) Devise the sequence of events in (a play, novel, movie, or similar work). Example: She plotted the days of her travel before to go.

SLAUGHTER(ED)

- (verb) The killing or butchering of cattle, sheep, etc., especially for food. Example : The farmer slaughtered a pig for the festival.
- (noun) Example: The cattle are prepared for slaughter.

VOCABULARY BUILDER / SOUND SPOTTER

MONICA

Vocabulary

- **clever**- (adj) Someone who is mentally bright quick to understand and learn, and resourceful.
- **settle**- (verb) to agree on a solution. Example: It was necessary to settle this questions. Also, to come to rest, be still, or quiet. Example: The snow settled on the bare branches of the tree.
- **came forward**- (verb) Stepped up to speak or take action.
- **proclaimed**- (verb) To be officially announced or formally declared to the public. Example: Each group proclaim themselves to be the wisest. proclamation (noun)
- **plot**- (noun) A secret plan to do something harmful. Also, the sequence of connected events that make up a story. Example: In The Necklace by Guy de Maupassant, the plot follows Mathilde's desire for wealth, her borrowing and losing a necklace, and the years of hardship that result. (verb) to make a secret plan to do something harmful.
- **dealt with**- (verb) Handled or managed in a particular way.

Sound Spotter

- **debate**- (noun). A formal discussion on a particular topic in a public meeting. (verb) To formally discuss a particular topic
- **behalf** (noun)- Speaking or acting for someone else. Example: We attended the funeral on Mama's behalf. Often used with the prepositions "on" and / or "of." Example: She spoke to the teacher **on behalf of** her daughter.
- **attended**- (verb) Past tense of attend. To be present at an event, to give care to someone.
- **hyena**- (noun) A doglike African mammal with forelimbs longer than hind limbs.
- **argued**- (verb) past tense of argue. give reasons or cite evidence in support of an idea, with the aim of persuading others.

SOUND SPOTTER

MARIA

Claimed (Verb) past tense e.g She could have claimed the cost through her insurance. The biggest animals, including the elephants claimed the title because they were the strongest.

Strength (noun) e.g The quality or state being physically strong.
e.g . The smallest animals thought that strength did not bring wisdom.

Refused (verb) past tense e.g Indicate or show that one is not willing to do something. e.g The cat and the dog refused to follow the rules.

Returned (verb) past tense e.g Come or go back to a place or person. The animals returned to their homes with sadness.

Controlled (adj) No showing emotion; having one's feeling under control. Some people have controlled by their power.

Preferred (verb) (past tense) like (one thing or person) better than another or others. E.g The people preferred to have the dog and cats close to them because of their loyalty.

Suspicious. (adj.) Having or showing a caution distrust of someone or something. e.g.The silence made the hyena suspect that something was wrong. The suspicious vehicle was reported to police.

Slaughter (verb) kill (animals) for food. E.g thousands of calves were exported to the continent for slaughter.

Threaten (verb) state one's intention to take hostile action against someone in retribution for something done or not done. e.g The lions and the elephants threatened the men, so they were able to escape to their freedom.

CONNECTION MAKER

LISA

Not yet submitted

CONNECTION MAKER

CRISTY

The tale of the animals against man and woman, reminds me of the elections that took place in my country and just like in the US. I met someone who came to the US when the president had been elected for the first time and he said that the economy was very good, that if he could have, he would have voted for the president this second time, without listening to the bad references they made, and he even defended him... and now with all the movement against immigrants he regrets it and is nervous that something will happen to his family. I think that sometimes, out of convenience, we make the easiest decision, without listening to the advice of others.

EMOTIONS EXPLORER

MARIANA

A moment that made me feel thoughtful and strong emotions was when the cat and dog said that humans serve them in "**The Wisest Animal**, I felt surprised and happy because it was smart how the cat and dog showed they were the wisest. It made me think that wisdom is not about size or power, but about how we live with others.

In **The Animals Revolt Against Humans**, when the hyena started the revolution for all animals to be free, I felt hopeful. But when the hyena saw that some animals were not free and accepted that situation, I felt sad and disappointed.

Many animals were caught and accepted living as servants to humans. They did not have the courage to face danger and live free and independent in the jungle, and that made me feel sorry for them.

EMOTIONS EXPLORER

ESMERALDA

I loved the folktale about how we serve animals like the dog and the cat; I found it very funny. I had never thought about it that way. On the other hand, the second folktale made me a little sad about how we abuse animals. I had not thought about it like that either, and it also left me with a lesson: that everyone chooses where they want to be according to our actions.

WORD ARTIST

FATEMEH

WORD ARTIST

YULIANNA

Animals Revolt Against Humans

Once upon a time, men, women, and all the animals of the forest lived together in peace. The cats and dogs were the closest friends of the humans — loyal, gentle, and always nearby. They understood the language of men and women better than the others. But one day, the hyena grew suspicious. She was clever and restless, always watching, always listening. When the cats and dogs refused to tell her what the humans were whispering about, her heart filled with worry.

Finally, hungry and desperate, the cats and dogs revealed the terrible secret — the men and women were planning to rule over all the animals. They would build fences, tie the strong beasts, and turn others into workers.

When the hyena found out about the plan, she quickly told all the other animals. Hearing this, they decided to escape. The lion's roar split the night like thunder. The elephants charged forward, tearing down the fence. Dust and broken branches filled the air. True chaos erupted as all the animals began making loud noises. The men and women only realized what had happened the next morning.

For a moment, freedom tasted wild and sweet. The animals fled into the forest, roaring, trumpeting, howling with joy. Some animals returned to the humans, tempted by warmth, food, and safety. When the hyena came back days later, she found them tied inside barns, their eyes dull and tired.

"My brothers and sisters," she said sadly, "I tried to save you, but you chose the chains."

A month later, she returned again. The donkey cried out from behind the fence, "I carry water all day for the humans, but they never thank me!" The hyena sighed. "Then live as you wish," she said quietly, turning back toward the deep, free forest.

And that is why, even today, some animals run wild beneath the open sky — while others live beside humans, obeying their every word.

WORD ARTIST

YULIANNA

An Animal Conference Determines the Wisest Animal

One day, on one of the large islands, animals from all over the world decided to gather for a great meeting to decide who was the smartest and wisest.

Each group claimed to be the wisest. The large animals boasted of their strength, the birds claimed to see everything from the sky, and the fish and reptiles spoke of their power over the water. Suddenly, a man and a woman stepped forward. Most of the animals bowed to them, but a clever cat and dog listened proudly, their eyes shining and attentive.

The cat spoke clearly: "They serve us, feed us, and love us. Can any of you do the same?"

The animals fell silent, realizing that neither they nor the humans possessed the strength or wisdom of the cat and dog.

Neither . . . nor Neither Yulianna nor Yariela was able to able to come.

Either . . . or Either Monica or Esmeralda will answer all of the questions today.

FACT FINDER

ANA

Not yet submitted

FACT FINDER

LILY S.

Not yet submitted