FABLES

Aesop’s Fables

For other stories, an introduction to fables in general and to Aesop fables see The Allyn and Bacon Anthology of Traditional Literature edited by Judith V. Lechner. Allyn and Bacon/Longman, 2003.

The Jay and the Peacock

From Joseph Jacobs’ The Fables of Aesop. London: Macmillan, 1894. (A few of the expressions were changed in order to make the stories sound more colloquial to modern ears).

A Jay venturing into a yard where Peacocks used to walk, found there a number of feathers which had fallen from the Peacock’s when they were molting. He tied them all to his tail and strutted down towards the Peacocks. When he came near them they soon discovered the cheat, and striding up to him pecked at him and plucked away his borrowed plumes. So the Jay could do no better than go back to the other Jays, who had watched his behaviour from a distance; but they were equally annoyed with him, and told him:

“It is not only fine feathers that make fine birds.”

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