FABLES

Aesop 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 Milkmaid and Her Pail

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).

Patty the Milkmaid was going to market carrying her milk in a Pail on her head. As she went along she began calculating what she would do with the money she would get for the milk. “I’ll buy some fowls from Farmer Brown,” said she, “and they will lay eggs each morning, which I will sell to the parson’s wife. With the money that I get from the sale of these eggs I’ll buy myself a new frock and a hat; and when I go to market, won’t all the young men come up and speak to me! Polly Shaw will be that jealous; but I don’t care. I shall just look at her and toss my head like this. As she spoke she tossed her head back, the Pail fell off it, and the milk was spilt. So she had to go home and tell her mother what had occurred.

“Ah, my child,” said her mother,

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