

Citizenship

The Quarrel of the Quail - a Jataka Tale, an Old Indian Fable

Long ago a large flock of quail lived together in a forest in India. They lived in great dread of their enemy, the quail catching fowler. He imitated the call of the quails' leader and when they gathered together in answer to it, he would throw a large net over them, stuff them into a bag, and take them to be sold.

The wise leader of the flock saw the plan of their enemy, the [fowler](#), and said, "Brothers, I've thought of a good plan. The next time the fowler throws a net over us, let each one put his head through one of the holes in the net and lift up together. We can fly away to the nearest thorn bush, let the net drop, and escape."

All agreed it was a very good plan. The next day when the fowler threw his net, the birds all lifted it together in the very way the wise quail had told them, threw it on a thorn bush and escaped. The fowler was busy til evening trying to free his net and went home empty-handed. This happened for many days. The fowler's wife grew angry because he did not bring home any money. The fowler said, "The trouble is that all the birds work together and help each other. If they would only quarrel, I could catch them."

A few days later, one of the quails in alighting on their feeding ground, trod by accident on another's head. "Who trod on my head?" angrily cried the quail who was hurt. "I did, but I didn't mean to tread on you." said the first quail.

But the brother quail went on quarreling.

"I lifted all the weight of the net! you didn't help at all!" he cried. That made the first quail angry, and soon all the quail were taking sides in this quarrel.

The fowler saw his chance. He imitated the cry of the quail and while they were still quarreling, he cast the net and caught them because they did not help one another lift the net.

The wise quail gathered his friends together and flew far away.

[Quail Information and Photos](#)

[Quail Choice Worksheet](#)

[Audio of a version of the story](#)

Step 1: Question Focus: CITIZENSHIP

[Question Focus Technique Resource](#)
—A Cooperative Learning Strategy

Step 2: Produce questions:

Rules for producing questions:

- Ask as many questions as you can.
- Change any statements into questions.
- Write down every question exactly as stated.
- Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer the questions.

Step 3: Improve the Questions.

1. Identify [open and closed-ended questions](#).
2. Change questions: select one question to change from open to closed-ended and one closed question to open-ended.

Example: Closed to open

How did the story end?

How might the story end if _____
was changed?

[The Power of Effective Questioning](#) 5:36 min.

Step 4: Prioritize Questions. Identify 2-3 that are the most important and be able to share your rationale for your choices.

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Step 5: Determine how questions are going to be used:

(Evidence of learning)

i.e. research project, real life application, assessment creation, discussion, written report, visual representation, oral presentation, etc.

- [Library of Congress Aesop Fables](#) - Includes some Interactive versions of Aesop Fables
- [Lesson Plans for Teaching Aesop Fables](#)
- [Learning Strategies](#) - adaptable for all subjects
- [19 Everyday Expressions That Came from Aesop](#) •
- [Teaching Tips from Mythweb](#) - Suggested activities in the class
- [More Teaching Tips for Myths](#)

Step 6: Reflection

What do the characteristics of the life principle look like for me?
