**Tales and Novels of J. de La Fontaine — Volume 22 eBook**

**Tales and Novels of J. de La Fontaine — Volume 22 by Jean de La Fontaine**

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

**Contents**

**Table of Contents**

|  |
| --- |
| Table of Contents |
| Section | Page |
|  |
| Start of eBook | 1 |
| THE PACK-SADDLE | 1 |
| Information about Project Gutenberg (one page) | 6 |
| (Three Pages) | 7 |

**Page 1**

**THE PACK-SADDLE**

A Famous painter, jealous of his wife;
Whose charms he valued more than fame or life,
When going on a journey used his art,
To paint an *ass* upon a certain part,
(Umbilical, ’tis said) and like a seal:
Impressive token, nothing thence to steal.A brother brush, enamoured of the dame;
Now took advantage, and declared his flame:
The Ass effaced, but God knows how ’twas done;
Another soon howe’er he had begun,
And finished well, upon the very spot;
In painting, few more praises ever got;
But want of recollection made him place
A saddle, where before he none could trace.

          Thehusband, when returned, desired to look
          At what he drew, when leave he lately took.
          Yes, see my dear, the wily wife replied,
          The Ass is witness, faithful I abide.
          Zounds! said the painter, when he got a sight,—­
          What!—­you’d persuade me ev’ry thing is right?
          I wish the witness you display so well,
          And him who saddled it, were both in Hell.

The ear-maker and the mould-Mender

When William went from home (a trader styled):
Six months his better half he left with child,
A simple, comely, modest, youthful dame,
Whose name was Alice; from Champaign she came.
Her neighbour Andrew visits now would pay;
With what intention, needless ’tis to say:
A master who but rarely spread his net,
But, first or last, with full success he met;
And cunning was the bird that ’scaped his snare;
Without surrendering a feather there.

          Quiteraw was Alice; for his purpose fit;
          Not overburdened with a store of wit;
          Of this indeed she could not be accused,
          And Cupid’s wiles by her were never used;
          Poor lady, all with her was honest part,
          And naught she knew of stratagem or art.

          Herhusband then away, and she alone,
          This neighbour came, and in a whining tone,
          To her observed, when compliments were o’er:—­
          I’m all astonishment, and you deplore,
          To find that neighbour William’s gone from hence,
          And left your child’s completing in suspense,
          Which now you bear within, and much I fear,
          That when ’tis born you’ll find it wants an ear.
          Your looks sufficiently the fact proclaim,
          For many instances I’ve known the same.
          Good heav’ns! replied the lady in a fright;
          What say you, pray?—­the infant won’t be right!
          Shall I be mother to a one-eared child?
          And know you no relief that’s certain styled?
          Oh yes, there is, rejoined the crafty knave,

 **Page 2**

          From such mishap I can the baby save;
          Yet solemnly I vow, for none but you
          I’d undertake the toilsome job to do.
          The ills of others, if I may be plain,
          Except your husband’s, never give me pain;
          But him I’d serve for ever, while I’ve breath;
          To do him good I’d e’en encounter death.
          Now let us see, without more talk or fears,
          If I know how to forge the bantling ears.
          Remember, cried the wife, to make them like.
          Leave that to me, said he, I’ll justly strike.
          Then he prepared for work; the dame gave way;
          Not difficult she proved:—­well pleased she lay;
          Philosophy was never less required,
          And Andrew’s process much the fair admired,
          Who, to his work extreme attention paid;
          ’Twas now a tendon; then a fold he made,
          Or cartilage, of which he formed enough,
          And all without complaining of the stuff.
          To-morrow we will polish it, said he:
          Then in perfection soon the whole will be;
          And from repeating this so oft, you’ll get
          As perfect issue as was ever met.
          I’m much obliged to you, the wife replied,
          A friend is good in whom we may confide.

          Nextday, when tardy Time had marked the hour;
          That Andrew hoped again to use his pow’r,
          He was not plunged in sleep, but briskly flew,
          His purpose with the charmer to pursue.
          Said he, all other things aside I’ve laid,
          This ear to finish, and to lend you aid.
          And I, the dame replied, was on the eve,
          To send and beg you not the job to leave;
          Above stairs let us go:—­away they ran,
          And quickly recommenced as they began.
          The work so oft was smoothed, that Alice showed
          Some scruples lest the ear he had bestowed
          Should do too much, and to the wily wight,
          She said, so little you the labour slight,
          ’Twere well if ears no more than two appear;
          Of that, rejoined the other, never fear;
          I’ve guarded thoroughly against defects,
          Mistake like that shall ne’er your senses vex.

          Theear howe’er was still in hand the same,
          When from his journey home the husband came.
          Saluted Alice, who with anxious look,
          Exclaimed,—­your work how finely you forsook,
          And, but for neighbour Andrew’s kindness here,
          Our child would incomplete have been—­an ear,
          I could not let a thing remain like this,
          And Andrew would not be to friends remiss,
          But, worthy man, he left his thriving trade,
          And for the babe a proper ear has made.

**Page 3**

          Thehusband, not conceiving how his wife,
          Could be so weak and ignorant of life,
          The circumstances made her fully tell,
          Repeat them o’er and on each action dwell.
          Enraged at length, a pistol by the bed
          He seized and swore at once he’d shoot her dead.
          The belle with tears replied, howe’er she’d swerved,
          Such cruel treatment never she deserved.
          Her innocence, and simple, gentle way,
          At length appeared his frantick rage to lay.
          What injury, continued she, is done?
          The strictest scrutiny I would not shun;
          Your goods and money, ev’ry thing is right;
          And Andrew told me, nothing he would slight;
          That you would find much more than you could want;
          And this I hope to me you’ll freely grant;
          If falsehood I advance, my life I’ll lose;
          Your equity, I trust, will me excuse.

          A little cooled, then William thus replied,
          We’ll say no more; you have been drawn aside;
          What passed you fancied acting for the best,
          And I’ll consent to put the thing at rest;
          To nothing good such altercations tend;
          I’ve but a word:  to that attention lend;
          Contrive to-morrow that I here entrap
          This fellow who has caused your sad mishap;
          You’ll utter not a word of what I’ve said;
          Be secret or at once I’ll strike you dead.
          Adroitly you must act:  for instance say;
          I’m on a second journey gone away;
          A message or a letter to him send,
          Soliciting that he’ll on you attend,
          That something you have got to let him know;—­
          To come, no doubt, the rascal won’t be slow;
          Amuse him then with converse most absurd,
          But of the *ear* remember,—­not a word;
          That’s finished now, and nothing can require;
          You’ll carefully perform what I desire.
          Poor innocent! the point she nicely hit;
          Fear oft gives simpletons a sort of wit.

          Thearch gallant arrived; the husband came
          Ascended to the room where sat his dame;
          Much noise he made, his coming to announce;
          The lover, terrified, began to bounce;
          Now here, now there, no shelter could he meet;
          Between the bed and wall he put his feet,
          And lay concealed, while William loudly knocked;
          Fair Alice readily the door unlocked,
          And, pointing with her hand, informed the spouse,
          Where he might easily his rival rouse.

**Page 4**

          Thehusband ev’ry way was armed so well,
          He four such men as Andrew could repel;
          In quest of succour howsoe’er he went:
          To kill him surely William never meant,
          But only take an ear, or what the Turks,
          Those savage beasts, cut off from Nature’s works;
          Which doubtless must be infinitely worse
          Infernal practice and continual curse.
          ’Twas this he whispered should be Andrew’s doom,
          When with his easy wife he left the room;
          She nothing durst reply:  the door he shut,
          And our gallant ’gan presently to strut,
          Around and round, believing all was right,
          And William unacquainted with his plight.

          Thelatter having well the project weighed,
          Now changed his plan, and other schemes surveyed;
          Proposed within himself revenge to take,
          With less parade:—­less noise it then would make,
          And better fruit the action would produce,
          Than if he were apparently profuse.
          Said he to Alice, go and seek his wife;
          To her relate the whole that caused our strife;
          Minutely all from first to last detail;
          And then the better on her to prevail,
          To hasten here, you’ll hint that you have fears,
          That Andrew risks the loss of—­more than ears,
          For I have punishment severe in view,
          Which greatly she must wish I should not do;
          But if an ear-maker, like this, is caught,
          The worst of chastisement is always sought;
          Such horrid things as scarcely can be said:
          They make the hair to stand upon the head;
          That he’s upon the point of suff’ring straight,
          And only for her presence things await;
          That though she cannot all proceedings stay,
          Perhaps she may some portion take away.
          Go, bring her instantly, haste quickly, run;
          And, if she comes, I’ll pardon what’s been done.

          Withjoy to Andrew’s house fair Alice went;
          The wife to follow her appeared content;
          Quite out of breath, alone she ran up stairs,
          And, not perceiving him who shared her cares;
          Believed he was imprisoned in a room;
          And while with fear she trembled for his doom;
          The master (having laid aside his arms)
          Now came to compliment the lady’s charms;
          He gave the belle a chair, who looked most nice:—­
          Said he, ingratitude’s the worst of vice;
          To me your husband has been wondrous kind;
          So many services has done I find,
          That, ere you leave this house, I’d wish to make
          A little return, and this you will partake.

 **Page 5**

          When I was absent from my loving dear,
          Obligingly he made her babe an ear.
          The compliment of course I must admire;
          Retaliation is what I desire,
          And I’ve a thought:—­your children all have got
          The nose a little short, which is a blot;
          A fault within the mould no doubt’s the cause,
          Which I can mend, and any other flaws.
          The business now let’s execute I pray,
          On which the dame he took without delay,
          And placed her near where Andrew hid his head,
          Then ’gan to operate as he was led.

          The, lady patiently his process bore,
          And blessed her stars that Andrew’s risk was o’er
          That she had thus the dire return received,
          And saved the man for whom her bosom grieved.
          So much emotion William seemed to feel,
          No grace he gave, but all performed with zeal;
          Retaliated ev’ry way so well,
          He measure gave for measure:—­ell for ell.
          How true the adage, that revenge is sweet!
          The plan he followed clearly was discrete;
          For since he wished his honour to repair:—­
          Of any better way I’m not aware.

          Thewhole without a murmur Andrew viewed,
          And thanked kind Heav’n that nothing worse ensued;
          One ear most readily he would have lost,
          Could he be certain that would pay the cost.
          He thought ’twould lucky be, could he get out,
          For all considered, better ’twere no doubt,
          Howe’er ridiculous the thing appears,
          To have a pair of horns than lose his ears.

**ETEXT EDITOR’S BOOKMARKS:**

Not overburdened with a store of wit

\*\*\* *End* *of* *the* *project* *gutenberg* *Ebook* *tales* *and* *novels* *of* *Fontaine*, V22 \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* This file should be named lf22w10.txt or lf22w10.zip \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Corrected *editions* of our eBooks get a new *number*, lf22w11.txt *versions* based on separate sources get new *letter*, lf22w10a.txt

This eBook was produced by David Widger *widger@cecomet.net*

Project Gutenberg eBooks are often created from several printed editions, all of which are confirmed as Public Domain in the *us* unless a copyright notice is included.  Thus, we usually do not keep eBooks in compliance with any particular paper edition.

We are now trying to release all our eBooks one year in advance of the official release dates, leaving time for better editing.  Please be encouraged to tell us about any error or corrections, even years after the official publication date.

Please note neither this listing nor its contents are final til midnight of the last day of the month of any such announcement.  The official release date of all Project Gutenberg eBooks is at Midnight, Central Time, of the last day of the stated month.  A preliminary version may often be posted for suggestion, comment and editing by those who wish to do so.

**Page 6**

Most people start at our Web sites at:  http://gutenberg.net or http://promo.net/pg

These Web sites include award-winning information about Project Gutenberg, including how to donate, how to help produce our new eBooks, and how to subscribe to our email newsletter (free!).

Those of you who want to download any eBook before announcement can get to them as follows, and just download by date.  This is also a good way to get them instantly upon announcement, as the indexes our cataloguers produce obviously take a while after an announcement goes out in the Project Gutenberg Newsletter.

http://www.ibiblio.org/gutenberg/etext03 or ftp://ftp.ibi
blio.org/pub/docs/books/gutenberg/etext03

Or *etext02, 01, 00, 99, 98, 97, 96, 95, 94, 93, 92, 92, 91 or 90*

Just search by the first five letters of the filename you want, as it appears in our Newsletters.

**Information about Project Gutenberg (one page)**

We produce about two million dollars for each hour we work.  The time it takes us, a rather conservative estimate, is fifty hours to get any eBook selected, entered, proofread, edited, copyright searched and analyzed, the copyright letters written, *etc*.  Our projected audience is one hundred million readers.  If the value per text is nominally estimated at one dollar then we produce $2 million dollars per hour in 2002 as we release over 100 new text files per month:  1240 more eBooks in 2001 for a total of 4000+ We are already on our way to trying for 2000 more eBooks in 2002 If they reach just 1-2% of the world’s population then the total will reach over half a trillion eBooks given away by year’s end.

The Goal of Project Gutenberg is to Give Away 1 Trillion eBooks!  This is ten thousand titles each to one hundred million readers, which is only about 4% of the present number of computer users.

Here is the briefest record of our progress (\* means estimated):

eBooks Year Month

    1 1971 July
   10 1991 January
  100 1994 January
 1000 1997 August
 1500 1998 October
 2000 1999 December
 2500 2000 December
 3000 2001 November
 4000 2001 October/November
 6000 2002 December\*
 9000 2003 November\*
10000 2004 January\*

The Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation has been created to secure a future for Project Gutenberg into the next millennium.

We need your donations more than ever!

As of February, 2002, contributions are being solicited from people and organizations in:  Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

**Page 7**

We have filed in all 50 states now, but these are the only ones that have responded.

As the requirements for other states are met, additions to this list will be made and fund raising will begin in the additional states.  Please feel free to ask to check the status of your state.

In answer to various questions we have received on this:

We are constantly working on finishing the paperwork to legally request donations in all 50 states.  If your state is not listed and you would like to know if we have added it since the list you have, just ask.

While we cannot solicit donations from people in states where we are not yet registered, we know of no prohibition against accepting donations from donors in these states who approach us with an offer to donate.

International donations are accepted, but we don’t know *anything* about how to make them tax-deductible, or even if they *can* be made deductible, and don’t have the staff to handle it even if there are ways.

Donations by check or money order may be sent to:

Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation
PMB 113
1739 University Ave.
Oxford, *Ms* 38655-4109

Contact us if you want to arrange for a wire transfer or payment method other than by check or money order.

The Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation has been approved by the *us* Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization with *ein* [Employee Identification Number] 64-622154.  Donations are tax-deductible to the maximum extent permitted by law.  As fund-raising requirements for other states are met, additions to this list will be made and fund-raising will begin in the additional states.

We need your donations more than ever!

You can get up to date donation information online at:

http://www.gutenberg.net/donation.html

\*\*\*

If you can’t reach Project Gutenberg,
you can always email directly to:

Michael S. Hart *hart@pobox.com*

Prof.  Hart will answer or forward your message.

We would prefer to send you information by email.

\*\*The Legal Small Print\*\*

**(Three Pages)**

\*\*\**Start*\*\**the* *small* *print*!\*\**For* *public* *domain* EBOOKS\*\**start*\*\*\* Why is this “Small Print!” statement here?  You know:  lawyers.  They tell us you might sue us if there is something wrong with your copy of this eBook, even if you got it for free from someone other than us, and even if what’s wrong is not our fault.  So, among other things, this “Small Print!” statement disclaims most of our liability to you.  It also tells you how you may distribute copies of this eBook if you want to.

**Page 8**

*BEFORE!* *You* *use* *or* *read* *this* *Ebook* By using or reading any part of this *project* *gutenberg*-tm eBook, you indicate that you understand, agree to and accept this “Small Print!” statement.  If you do not, you can receive a refund of the money (if any) you paid for this eBook by sending a request within 30 days of receiving it to the person you got it from.  If you received this eBook on a physical medium (such as a disk), you must return it with your request.

*About* *project* *gutenberg*-*tm* EBOOKS This *project* *gutenberg*-tm eBook, like most *project* *gutenberg*-tm eBooks, is a “public domain” work distributed by Professor Michael S. Hart through the Project Gutenberg Association (the “Project").  Among other things, this means that no one owns a United States copyright on or for this work, so the Project (and you!) can copy and distribute it in the United States without permission and without paying copyright royalties.  Special rules, set forth below, apply if you wish to copy and distribute this eBook under the “*Project* *gutenberg*” trademark.

Please do not use the “*Project* *gutenberg*” trademark to market any commercial products without permission.

To create these eBooks, the Project expends considerable efforts to identify, transcribe and proofread public domain works.  Despite these efforts, the Project’s eBooks and any medium they may be on may contain “Defects”.  Among other things, Defects may take the form of incomplete, inaccurate or corrupt data, transcription errors, a copyright or other intellectual property infringement, a defective or damaged disk or other eBook medium, a computer virus, or computer codes that damage or cannot be read by your equipment.

*Limited* *warranty*; *disclaimer* *of* *damages* But for the “Right of Replacement or Refund” described below, [1] Michael Hart and the Foundation (and any other party you may receive this eBook from as a *project* *gutenberg*-tm eBook) disclaims all liability to you for damages, costs and expenses, including legal fees, and [2] *you* *have* *no* *Remedies* *for* *negligence* *or* *under* *strict* *liability*, *or* *for* *Breach* *of* *warranty* *or* *contract*, *including* *but* *not* *limited* *to* *indirect*, *consequential*, *punitive* *or* *incidental* *damages*, *even* *if* *you* *give* *notice* *of* *the* *possibility* *of* *such* *damages*.

If you discover a Defect in this eBook within 90 days of receiving it, you can receive a refund of the money (if any) you paid for it by sending an explanatory note within that time to the person you received it from.  If you received it on a physical medium, you must return it with your note, and such person may choose to alternatively give you a replacement copy.  If you received it electronically, such person may choose to alternatively give you a second opportunity to receive it electronically.

**Page 9**

*This* *Ebook* *is* *otherwise* *provided* *to* *you* “*As*-*is*”.  *No* *other* *warranties* *of* *any* *kind*, *express* *or* *implied*, *are* *made* *to* *you* *as* *to* *the* *Ebook* *or* *any* *medium* *it* *may* *be* *on*, *including* *but* *not* *limited* *to* *warranties* *of* *merchantability* *or* *fitness* *for* A *particular* *purpose*.

Some states do not allow disclaimers of implied warranties or the exclusion or limitation of consequential damages, so the above disclaimers and exclusions may not apply to you, and you may have other legal rights.

*Indemnity* You will indemnify and hold Michael Hart, the Foundation, and its trustees and agents, and any volunteers associated with the production and distribution of Project Gutenberg-tm texts harmless, from all liability, cost and expense, including legal fees, that arise directly or indirectly from any of the following that you do or cause:  [1] distribution of this eBook, [2] alteration, modification, or addition to the eBook, or [3] any Defect.

*Distribution* *under* “*Project* *gutenberg*-tm” You may distribute copies of this eBook electronically, or by disk, book or any other medium if you either delete this “Small Print!” and all other references to Project Gutenberg, or:

[1] Only give exact copies of it.  Among other things, this
     requires that you do not remove, alter or modify the
     eBook or this “small print!” statement.  You may however,
     if you wish, distribute this eBook in machine readable
     binary, compressed, mark-up, or proprietary form,
     including any form resulting from conversion by word
     processing or hypertext software, but only so long as
     *EITHER*:

     [\*] The eBook, when displayed, is clearly readable, and
          does *not* contain characters other than those
          intended by the author of the work, although tilde
          (~), asterisk (\*) and underline (\_) characters may
          be used to convey punctuation intended by the
          author, and additional characters may be used to
          indicate hypertext links; *or*

     [\*] The eBook may be readily converted by the reader at
          no expense into plain ASCII, EBCDIC or equivalent
          form by the program that displays the eBook (as is
          the case, for instance, with most word processors);
          *or*

     [\*] You provide, or agree to also provide on request at
          no additional cost, fee or expense, a copy of the
          eBook in its original plain ASCII form (or in EBCDIC
          or other equivalent proprietary form).

**Page 10**

[2] Honor the eBook refund and replacement provisions of this
     “Small Print!” statement.

[3] Pay a trademark license fee to the Foundation of 20% of the
     gross profits you derive calculated using the method you
     already use to calculate your applicable taxes.  If you
     don’t derive profits, no royalty is due.  Royalties are
     payable to “Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation”
     the 60 days following each date you prepare (or were
     legally required to prepare) your annual (or equivalent
     periodic) tax return.  Please contact us beforehand to
     let us know your plans and to work out the details.

*What* *if* *you* *WANT* *to* *send* *money* *even* *if* *you* *don’t* *have* *to*?  Project Gutenberg is dedicated to increasing the number of public domain and licensed works that can be freely distributed in machine readable form.

The Project gratefully accepts contributions of money, time,
public domain materials, or royalty free copyright licenses.
Money should be paid to the:
“Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation.”

If you are interested in contributing scanning equipment or software or other items, please contact Michael Hart at:  hart@pobox.com

[Portions of this eBook’s header and trailer may be reprinted only when distributed free of all fees.  Copyright (C) 2001, 2002 by Michael S. Hart.  Project Gutenberg is a TradeMark and may not be used in any sales of Project Gutenberg eBooks or other materials be they hardware or software or any other related product without express permission.]

*END THE SMALL PRINT!  FOR PUBLIC DOMAIN EBOOKS*Ver.02/11/02\**End*\*