A cruel master had many slaves. He often punished them for nothing. Once, a slave ran away to a jungle and hid in a cave. He began to live there. One day, he came across a lion. He got frightened. He wanted to run away. But then he saw that the lion was jumping. He also caught sight of his badly swollen paw. The lion could hardly walk. He took pity on him. He went near him and pulled out the thorn from his paw. The lion looked at him with gratitude and went his way. After a longtime, the slave was caught. The master decided to throw him before a hungry lion as a warning for other slaves. On the fixed day, he was thrown before a hungry lion. The lion, instead of killing him, began to lick his feet. In fact, it was the same lion that had met the slave in the jungle. When the master learned the real event, he was moved to tears and freed both the friends.

Moral: Do good have good.
In ancient times, animals and birds gathered to elect the king of jungle. The lion and the eagle were the candidates for kingship. Each claimed to be superior to the other. The matter could not be settled. Consequently, a battle broke out between them. The bat's behavior was very odd during the fight. If the animals seemed to be winning, it went to them and claimed to be one of them as it milks its young ones. However, if the birds seemed to be winning, it went to them and claimed to be a bird, as it could fly like then. It kept on changing its loyalty throughout the fight. At last, the animals won and the lion was declared to be an absolute king of jungle. The bat went to animals to congratulate them on their victory, but they turned it out saying, "you are a bird, for you can fly like birds". Then, it visited the birds to console them, but they also banished it and said, "you are an animal, because you milk your young ones". Since then, it lives alone in the dark.

Moral: A rolling stone gathers no moss.
Once, a stag arrived at a stream to drink water. He drank water his fill. Suddenly, he caught sight of his reflection in the clear crystal water. He was extremely delighted to see his beautiful horns. He felt very proud and admired the grace of his horns. Suddenly, he caught sight of his legs. He was dissatisfied with such slender and slim legs. While he was thus contemplating, he heard the howls of hounds from a distance. To his fright, he saw a pack of hounds running towards him across the field. He immediately took to flight into the jungle. Soon, with the help of his legs, he was well away from the hounds. By chance, he had to cross a part of forest overgrown with bushes. While passing through it, his horns were entangled in the thick bushes. He made desperate efforts to free himself but all to no avail. His lean legs, which he hated so much, had brought him far away from death. But, his majestic horns, which he admired so proudly, had brought him to this calamity. In no time, the howling hounds fell upon him and tore him to pieces.

Moral: All that glitters is not gold.
Once, there lived three friends in a village. They were very poor. One day, they set out on a journey to seek living. They claimed to be true friends but were selfish indeed. While they were on their way, they found a bag full of golden coins. They were very happy to find so much gold. They sat down under a tree to discuss the matter. Finally, they agreed to divide it equally among themselves. But inwardly each wished to have all the golden coins to himself. After sometime, they felt hungry. One of them went to the nearby town to buy some food. He decided to kill the other two friends. He bought some poison, mixed it in the food and returned to his friends. The other two friends were even greedier. They had already made a plot to kill him and divide the coins equally between themselves. When the third friend arrived there, they fell upon him and did away with him. As they were hungry, they began to eat the poisoned food. They also died after a while.

Moral: Greed is curse.
Once, two friends went on a journey. One was tall and the other was short. They promised to help each other in the hour of need. While passing through a jungle, they saw a bear coming towards them in the distance. The tall friend climbed up a tree. He did not show any care for his friend. The other friend did not know how to climb a tree. He felt quite helpless. He could do nothing to come out of this trouble. Suddenly, the saying of a wise person echoed in his ears, "a bear does not touch the dead person." He at once lay down and pretended to be dead. When the bear came near him, he held his breath. The bear sniffed at him, took him for a dead person and went away. Soon the bear was out of sight. The tall friend climbed down the tree and came to the other friend. He asked him jokingly what the bear had said in his ear. The other friend was angry and said that it had advised him not to trust the selfish friends. Saying this, he said good-bye to his selfish friend and went his way alone.

Moral: A friend in need is a friend indeed.
Once there was a royal messenger. He was faithful but reckless by temperament. One day, the king asked him to convey an important message to his army in the battlefield. The messenger was asked to deliver the immediately. He got ready to set out on his journey at once. At the time of departure, he noticed that a nail from one of the shoes of his horse was missing, as he was in haste, he neglected it and set off right away. He made his horse gallop. When he had covered over half of the distance, he realized that the horse was limping. He got off the horse to see the problem. To his grief, he discovered that one of the shoes of the horse had gone off. He felt quite helpless. In embarrassment, he made the horse run even faster. After sometime, the horse fell down and died. The messenger began to run. At last, he reached the battlefield but he was too late to deliver the message. The king's army had been defeated because of no delivery of the message. He cursed himself for not being careful about the nail; but it was too late to mend.

Moral: A stitch in time saves nine.
Once, a fox, by an unlucky chance, fell into a well. He tried hard to climb up the wall of the well but to no avail. The wall of the well was too high to be jumped over. He felt to be utterly in trouble. After some time, a goat happened to pass by the well. He was also wandering about in search of water to quench his raging thirst. He peeped into the well. To his surprise, he found the fox splashing there. The fox also looked up and saw a goat peeping down. There flashed a trick through his clever brain. He decided to take full advantage of the opportunity. He pretended to be cheerful. The goat asked him what he was doing there. He said that he daily came there to enjoy the sweet coolness water of the water well. He invited the goat to jump down and try to taste the sweetness. The goat immediately jumped down into the well. The fox was waiting just for that moment. He at once jumped onto the back of the goat and leapt out of the well. Then the goat realized his folly. He requested the fox to help him out of the trouble. The fox laughed and advised him to go on bleating loudly. His master might hear his cries and come to rescue him. Meanwhile, he should enjoy a luxuriant bath.

Moral: Look before you leap.
Once, a poor woodcutter lived in a village. He daily cut wood, sold it and earned his living. One day, he was cutting wood on the bank of a river. By chance, his axe slipped from his hand and fell into the river. He did not know how to swim. He became very sad and began to cry. Suddenly, an angel appeared there. He asked the woodcutter the cause of his weeping. The woodcutter narrated his sad story. The kind angel was moved and decided to help him. He dived into the deep water. After a while, he brought out an axe of gold. The woodcutter said that it was not his axe and refused to take it. The angel dived again and brought out an axe of silver. The woodcutter did not accept it also as it was not his axe. The angel dived for the third time and brought out an iron axe. The woodcutter was very happy to see his axe. He got the axe and thanked the angel for his help. The angel was impressed by his honesty. He gave him the other two axes as a reward for his honesty.

Moral: Honesty is the best policy.
Once, there lived an old farmer in a village. He had three sons. They were very strong but quarrelsome. The farmer was very worried about them. He advised them in vain not to quarrel. One day the farmer decided to teach them a lesson of unity. He asked his servant to fetch a bundle of sticks. Then he sent for his sons. The sons came there immediately. First, he admired them for their strength and then asked them to break the bundle of sticks. The youngest son tried first to do so but in vain. Then the elder one tried to break it but could not. After this, the eldest son tried to break the bundle but failed in his attempt. At this, the farmer asked them to untie the bundle and break the sticks one by one. They broke all the sticks easily. He made them realize that the sticks were strong when tied together and breakable singly. He told them that they would be strong when united and weak when separated. The sons took the advice of their father and promised not to quarrel in future.

Moral: Union is strength.
Once, there lived a hare and a tortoise in a jungle. They were friends. The hare often laughed at the slow speed of the tortoise. One day, the tortoise got angry. He asked the hare to run a race with him. The hare accepted the offer at once. The winning point was fixed and the race started. The hare ran very fast. Soon he was out of sight. On the way, the hare saw a cool shady tree. He decided to take some rest. He knew well that the tortoise would take a long time to reach there. He lay down and fell fast asleep. The tortoise continued his slow but steady walk. On the way, he saw the hare sleeping. He passed by him quietly. When the hare woke up, the sun was setting. He was deeply upset. He ran as fast as he could. When he reached the winning point, he found the tortoise there. He was much ashamed. He decided not to laugh at any one in future.

Moral: Slow and steady wins the race.
It was a hot day of summer. The burning rays of the sun had dried up the pools and ponds all around. Life was crippled thoroughly. A crow felt very thirsty. He flew here and there in search of water to quench his raging thirst. But he could find no water anywhere. The unbearable thirst had parched his throat completely. He feared that he would die soon if he could not find water. Therefore, he did not cease his search. At last, he arrived at a garden. To his good luck, there was a pitcher placed near a cottage. He felt very happy. He sat at the mouth of the pitcher and looked into it. To his grief, the water in the pitcher was a bit low. He could not get at it. He was utterly upset. By chance, he caught sight of a few pebbles lying nearby. He struck on a brilliant idea. He began to drop the pebbles into the pitcher one by one. The water began to rise slowly. He continued his labour till the water rose up to his reach. He drank water his fill and flew away happily.

Moral: Necessity is the mother of invention
Robert Bruce was a brave king of Scotland. He fought many battles against the English to win freedom for his country. Nevertheless, he could not succeed in his efforts. Once he was defeated so badly that he had to run away from the battlefield to save his life. He hid in a cave and began to ponder over the faults that had brought about his defeat. Finally, he decided to give up his struggle. While lying disappointed in the cave, he caught sight of a spider that was trying to climb up the wall to reach its cobweb. The spider fell down but began to climb again. It caught the attention of the king. The spider tried many times to reach its destination but could not. Every time it fell down, it tried with new zeal. It failed nine times but did not get hopeless. The king thought that the spider would give up its attempts. However, to his surprise, he saw the spider climbing up the wall again. This time, it succeeded in reaching its cobweb. This event gave the king a new hope. He decided to fight again. He gathered his army and fought with an unusual spirit of victory. This time, he defeated his enemy.

Moral: Try, try again.
Once, a hungry wolf was wandering here and there in search of prey. He happened to pass by a village. He happened to come across a fat dog there. Eventually, they became friends. The dog observed the miserable condition of the wolf. He looked so thin and starved. He asked him to join him in guarding the house of his master. He assured him that in return the master would feed him so well that he would become healthy and strong in a few days. The starving wolf accepted the offer and proceeded with the dog to his master's house. On the way, he caught sight of a mark around the neck of the dog. The wolf asked the dog about the mark. The dog tried to avoid the issue. However, on the insistence of the wolf, the dog had to reveal the truth. He said that it was the mark of a leather strap. He said that his master put a collar in his neck during daytime so that he might not wander about. When the wolf heard the name of collar, he was horror-struck. He thanked the dog for his offer. He said that he could not sacrifice his freedom at the altar of food. He said goodbye to the dog and disappeared in the jungle in a flash.

Moral: Freedom is a blessing.
A Fox lived in a jungle. One day, she could find nothing to eat. She felt awfully hungry. She wandered about in search of food. After a long search, she arrived at a garden. There she saw a green grapevine. It was luxuriant with leaves and grapes. The clusters of ripe black grapes were hanging from it. They looked so mellow and juicy that she felt even hungrier. Unfortunately, they were hanging a bit high. They were out of her reach. She did her utmost to get at them but could not. She exerted in vain all her foxy tricks to reach them. She jumped and jumped but to no avail. At last, she was convinced that the grapes were too high to be got at. She was disappointed. She cast a last longing look at them and departed. Hiding her disappointment, she said, "the grapes are sour, and not ripe as I think." saying this, she went away hungry.

Moral: People pretend to dislike when they cannot get.
Once, a farmer asked his daughter to carry a bucket of milk to the market to sell it. The girl was very fanciful and imaginative. While she was carrying the bucket, she got lost in her fancy. Her thoughts lulled her away into the world of imagination. She thought that she would earn so much money by selling milk that it would be sufficient to buy two hundred eggs. In spite of all mishaps, the eggs must produce at least one hundred and fifty chickens. The chickens would fetch high price in the market. In this way, her father would earn a lot of money. They would become rich and respected. Her father would buy her a silky dress. Wearing the dress, she would go to Christmas parties. There, every gentleman would propose to her but she would refuse them all by the toss of her head. At this moment, she tossed her head. The bucket of milk fell to the ground and all her imaginary schemes perished in a flash. Then she began to cry.

Moral: Do not build castles in the air.
Once, a merchant sold his goods in the market. He earned a handsome profit. He proceeded to his village happily. When he was passing through a jungle, a sudden rainstorm overtook him. He took refuge under a shady tree. He scolded nature for the untimely rain. The storm continued for a long time. The sun was kissing the horizon, when the rain stopped. It was so wet everywhere. Anyhow, he resumed his journey. On the way, some robbers blocked his way. They ordered him to hand over the money. The merchant did not want to lose his hard-earned money. He refused to yield to them. They threatened to shoot him if he did not hand over the money. The merchant decided to take the risk. He made his horse gallop. The robbers fired at him, but their pistols did not work. It happened so because the gunpowder had got wet with the rainwater. The merchant succeeded in escaping from the risk. At last, he reached his village safe and sound. Though the rain had troubled him a bit, it had saved his life and money. The rain had proved a blessing in disguise. He did penance and thanked god for sending the rain.

Moral: Blessing is disguise.
It was a severe winter. It had sleeted and snowed very heavily. Intense cold had prevailed everywhere. Strong icy winds were blowing and biting. Everything on earth had turned white with heavy frost. An old farmer after working on his farm was returning his home. He was making his way through a dense forest. On the way, he saw a snake which was stiff and frozen with cold. As he was a kind-hearted person, he took pity on it. He picked it up and placed it under his armpit. After some time, the snake was revived by the warmth of the body of the farmer. It resumed its natural instinct and bit its benefactor. It proved to be a deadly sting. Breathing his last breath, the farmer said, I rightly deserve that lethal sting for pitying a scoundrel. The greatest kindness cannot befriend an enemy.

Moral: Nature can never be changed.
Wolf and Lamb

Once, a lamb was playing in a pasture. A wolf happened to come there. He wanted to eat the lamb. But he wanted to have some fun with it first. He thus addressed him: "ah, there you are! You grossly insulted me last year." the lamb was bewildered at this unjust accusation. He stood stunned in silence. When he came to his senses, he bleated mournfully, "indeed, i was not then born, sir!" then the wolf frowned in fury and said, "you feed in my pasture." the little lamb replied respectfully, "no, good sir, i am too young to taste grass. I have not yet eaten any blade of grass." the wolf got infuriated at this rude reply. He frowned and growled, "you drink of my well and make its water unclean. No," the little lamb bleated humbly, "i do not yet drink water, for my mother's milk is both food and drink for me," upon this, the wolf got furious. He said, "even though you refute every one of my imputations, i cannot miss such an opportunity to taste soft flesh". Saying this, he jumped forward, seized him and pierced his big teeth into his tender body. In no time, he tore him open and surfeited himself with fresh meat. A tyrant always finds a pretext for his tyranny.

Moral: Any excuse will serve a wicked person.