The stories referenced in this sampler are NOT REQUIRED SPEECHES, but examples of acceptable material.

Students should work with teachers and/or media resource staff to find comparable pieces that would be of interest to the student and support curricular and academic needs.

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Important Information

THANK YOU for participating in the ACSI Elementary Speech Meet. The ACSI regional office is here to help you in every way possible. Please don’t hesitate to call for assistance. ACSI Student Activities enhance learning beyond the classroom by equipping Christian schools and educators while challenging students toward God-honoring applications of their leadership skills, fine arts talents, and academic abilities.

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THESE FILES MAY NOT BE POSTED TO ANY SCHOOL WEBSITE. Member schools should contact their regional office for instructions regarding supplying study materials to parents or students.
The Ants and the Grasshopper — Aesop's Fables

The ant, like the bee, has long been held up as a paradigm of industriousness. Proverbs 6:6-8 says, “Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest” (NKJV).

Belling the Cat — Aesop's Fables

It is one thing to say that something should be done, but quite a different matter to do it.

The Boy and the Nuts — Aesop's Fables

One good, practical reason for controlling our cravings is that if we grasp for too much, we may end up getting nothing at all.

The Boy Who Cried Wolf — Aesop's Fables

This may be Aesop’s most famous fable, and for good reason. The fastest way to lose our “good reputation” is to lose our honesty.

Chicken Little — Traditional

Mark Twain once said he had known a lot of troubles in his life, and most of them never happened. We imagine many of our fears into existence. To avoid foolish cowardice, refrain from too much mountain making out of molehills. Courage, said Plato, is knowing what not to fear.

The Country Mouse and the City Mouse — Aesop's Fables

Poverty with security is better than plenty in the midst of fear and uncertainty.

The Fox and the Crow — Aesop's Fables

Vanity is largely a matter of self-control, or lack of it. Others may try to feed our ego, but it is up to us to control it.

George Washington and the Cherry Tree — J. Berg Esenwein, Marietta Stockard

The chopping down of the cherry tree is surely the most famous truth-telling tale in America. It first appeared in 1806 in the fifth edition of Mason Lock Weems’ imaginative biography of Washington, The Life of George Washington with Curious Anecdotes, Equally Honourable to Himself and Exemplary to His Young Countrymen.

The Goose and the Golden Egg — Aesop’s Fables

If you try to get more, you may end up with even less than you started with.
The Honest Woodman — Jean de La Fontaine, adapted from Emilie Poulsson
A retelling of Fontaine's adaptation of Aesop's Mercury and the Woodman that teaches that honesty is the best policy.

The Lion and the Mouse — Aesop's Fables
One of the oldest and best-loved stories of kindness paid and repaid. From it we learn that the power of compassion has been found within both the mighty and the meek. Kindness is not a feeble virtue.

The Little Red Hen and the Grain of Wheat — Traditional Folk Tale
From this longtime favorite, we learn, as it says in the third chapter of Genesis, “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food.”

Little Sunshine — Retold by Etta Austin Blaisdell and Mary Frances Blaisdell
Bestowing compassion is like offering most other gifts: often it’s the thought that counts.

The Milkmaid and Her Pail — Aesop's Fables
Do not count your chickens before they are hatched.

The Old Hound — Aesop's Fables
No one should be blamed for his infirmities.

The Sheep and the Pig Who Built a House — Retold by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey
This Scandinavian tale is a good companion for “The Little Red Hen.” In this story, there's no shortage of animals willing to pitch in and help.

Someone Sees You — Traditional
This folktale reminds us that an act of dishonesty is never truly hidden.