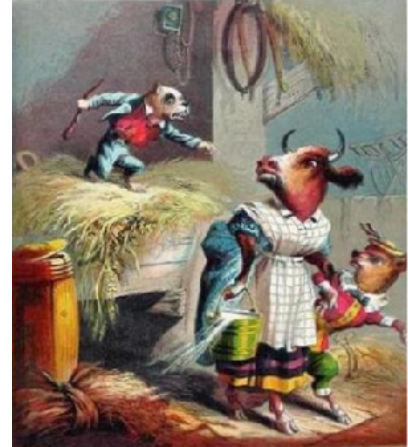


The Dog in the Manger - Fable

The Dog in the Manger

One sunny afternoon, a grumpy dog climbed into a manger in a barn. A manger is a wooden box filled with hay for farm animals to eat. The dog found the hay soft and warm, so he curled up on top of it and fell asleep.



After a while, a group of oxen came into the barn. They had been working hard all day and were very hungry. When they walked toward the manger to eat the hay, the dog woke up and began to bark loudly.

“Grrrr!” he growled, showing his teeth and snapping at the oxen. Each time they stepped closer, the dog barked even more fiercely, chasing them away.

The oxen were surprised and upset. “Why won’t you let us eat?” one ox asked. “You don’t even eat hay. This food is meant for us.”

But the dog did not listen. Even though he could not eat the hay himself, he refused to share it and stayed right where he was. At last, the oxen had to leave the barn still hungry, while the dog remained in the manger guarding something he could never use.

Moral: *Don’t stop others from enjoying what you cannot use yourself.*

Questions for “The Dog in the Manger”

1. Where did the dog go in the barn?
2. Why did the dog like staying in the manger?
3. Who came into the barn after the dog fell asleep?
4. Why did the oxen want to go to the manger?



5. How did the dog react when he saw the oxen?
6. What did the oxen say to the dog?
7. Why was the dog’s behavior unfair?
8. What happened to the oxen in the end?
9. What did the dog do after the oxen left?
10. What lesson does this story teach us?

Questions for “The Dog in the Manger”

Answers:

1. Where did the dog go in the barn?
The dog went into the manger filled with hay.
2. Why did the dog like staying in the manger?
He liked it because the hay was soft and comfortable to sleep on.
3. Who came into the barn after the dog fell asleep?
A group of oxen came into the barn.
4. Why did the oxen want to go to the manger?
They wanted to eat the hay because they were hungry.
5. How did the dog react when he saw the oxen?
The dog barked, growled, and snapped at them.
6. What did the oxen say to the dog?
They told the dog that he did not even eat hay.
7. Why was the dog’s behavior unfair?
The dog could not use the hay but would not let others have it.
8. What happened to the oxen in the end?
The oxen had to leave the barn hungry.
9. What did the dog do after the oxen left?
The dog stayed in the manger guarding the hay.
10. What lesson does this story teach us?
We should not stop others from enjoying what we cannot use ourselves.