

## Aesop's Fables – The Fox and the Grapes

A hungry Fox saw some fine bunches of Grapes hanging from a vine that was trained along a high trellis, and did his best to reach them by jumping as high as he could into the air. But it was all in vain, for they were just out of reach: so he gave up trying, and walked away with an air of dignity and unconcern, remarking, "I thought those Grapes were ripe, but I see now they are quite sour."

### Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What does it mean to say that the vine "was trained along a high trellis"?
2. What does the phrase "air of dignity" mean?
3. Why doesn't the fox eat the grapes?
4. What does "it was all in vain" mean?
5. We get the saying "sour grapes" from this fable. Why? How does the phrase relate to this fable?
6. What is the theme or main message?



## Aesop's Fables – The Wolf and the Sheep

### Answer Key

1. What does it mean to say that the vine “was trained along a high trellis”? **A trellis is a lattice, fence or framework for the vine to grow on. The vine had grown too high along the trellis for the fox to reach.**
2. What does the phrase “air of dignity” mean? **A dignified, noble, formal or self-respecting attitude. It was as if he felt he was too good to bother with the grapes.**
3. Why doesn't the fox eat the grapes? **Though he tries, he can't reach the grapes. He tried, “in vain” to reach the grapes.**
4. What does “it was all in vain” mean? **Unsuccessful or without gain or effect.**
5. We get the saying “sour grapes” from this fable. Why? How does the phrase relate to this fable? **The phrase means that after a disappointment, one acts as though he does not care. It is a form of cognitive dissonance, which is discomfort caused by holding conflicting ideas simultaneously.**
6. What is the theme or main message? **Sometimes people pretend not to care for something when they cannot have it.**