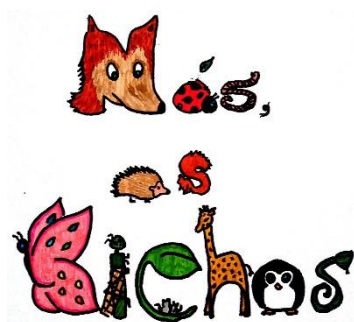




We the Animals

Students of 9th grade
Agrupamento de Escolas Rainha Santa Isabel (Carreira, Leiria)



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Writers: students 9th grade

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"At the time when animals used to speak" was the motto that inspired our young writers to create new tales and to reinvent old fables. The result? A set of small, modest and unpretentious narratives, but full of meaning and intention, where animals live the adventures of human beings and carry out timeless dilemmas of our existence. This is the book that we present to you. We hope that its words will keep you company and cherish your hearts.

"Animals are very friendly because they play with me and amaze my life!"

(Bruna Heleno, 9ºB)

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Beyond

Stella, a female caracal, lived all her life with her beloved family, in Kalopsia, a place where everything seemed more beautiful. Her father was Warley and her mother Zahara, she also had a younger brother, Pixie.

Stella always wanted to be an astronaut, so every night she escaped from home to watch the stars and the Moon, because of her adoration of the Universe, which was an enigma for her. That night was no exception. Stella was lying on her stomach, as always, asking questions about everything she contemplated: Why is the moon more visible on some days than on others? How many stars are there in the Universe? Why do stars have slightly different colours?

- Due to its chemical composition and temperature. Replied a rabbit who appeared out of nowhere.

"Wh-who are you?" Stella stammered, still stunned by the sudden invasion.

- I 'm Dexter, nice to meet you!

"What are you doing here, and why were you listening to me?" He asked, calmer and more confident, ignoring his enthusiasm.

"I was walking, I began to hear a voice and decided to see what was going on.

"And why were you walking alone at night?"

"Asks the girl who is lying down looking at the sky, while she makes her monologues ..." said the rabbit with the weird glasses.

She consented, although it was not the answer she wanted to hear.

Then she stared at the rabbit, who seemed to be about the same age as her. At a certain point she realized that, he had just given her the answer to the first question she had asked? Her thoughts were interrupted again:

"You have not introduced yourself yet ..." cried the bearded animal with the stretched ears, ready to hear what she had to say.

- I 'm Stella. Satisfied? "She answered coldly. Then, continuing the questions, he asked:

"Why do you know that about the stars?"

The rabbit made a small smile and replied proudly:

-I know the answer to almost everything, I am wise!

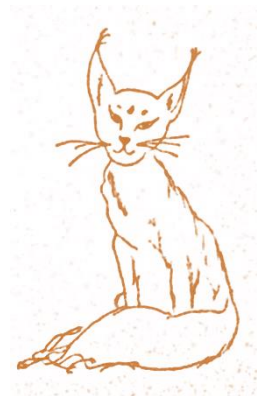
Stella, still sceptical of what she had just heard, decided to test his intelligence:

"As you're so smart, why is the sky blue?"

"This is related to how the atmosphere spreads the sunlight. Earth's atmosphere is rich in nitrogen and oxygen, molecules that more effectively spread the blue colour. Do you believe in my intelligence?

Stella widened her eyes and she was speechless. He was really smart!

"How do you know so much?" she asked.



"When I was little, I was very curious about everything, and since then, my parents taught me everything. I also have a library at home and spend many hours reading. – retorted Dexter.

- Wow! I think, I'm just curious about the Universe. I want to be an astronaut. She replied, more sympathetic.

"Interesting choice!" Murmured Dexter. "Did you know that astronauts do not cry, simply because the tears do not fall from the eyes, since there is no gravity?

"I've never thought of it that way ..."

They kept silent for a while until the rabbit spoke again:

-Hey! Why don't you build a rocket and turn your dream true, your dream of being an astronaut? I'd love to help you, but you have to promise to take me with you.

Stella's eyes shone with happiness.

- Seriously? Can you help me? Asked the feline, full of enthusiasm.

He nodded, which made Stella embrace him. The rabbit was amazed at her reaction, but returned the gesture.

- Thanks Thanks Thanks!

-"You don't have to thank me. If you want, we can start building it tomorrow morning.

-Ok. We'll meet here! she cried, more calmly. - See you tomorrow!

- See you tomorrow! Dexter said: Good-bye.

The next morning, there they were building the rocket.

The routine continued for a while, and each day, they became more and more friendly.

On the day of departure, there was almost everyone from Kalopsia. She knew that her parents supported her in the realization of her dream, but, being super protective, they did not like the idea of her going into the unknown.

In the crowd, Dexter reassured Stella, who was very nervous. She was afraid that the rocket would be a failure and that their whole job would not work on the other hand, Dexter was confident: he believed in their abilities.

After saying goodbye to their families, Stella and Dexter got into the rocket. Enthusiastic to know if it worked, they pressed a button and the rocket went off at high speed to the "Beyond."

During the trip, Dexter asked uncertainly,

"What if there's nothing?"

"What if there's everything?" Stella asked, to make him think.

At a certain moment they began to see a planet. Their eyes lit up with pride.

The two friends celebrated and decided to name it Amethyst, since the planet reflected a shade of purple.

- We reached! I told you! "Cried out Stella.

Inês Batista, 9th C

The contest

Once upon a time there was a grasshopper named Hannibal, which was very big. He seemed very nice, but rather shy. Hannibal liked to sing very much and all the animals of the forest boasted that he was a great singer.



One day, his friend a ladybird who was quite vain, thought that she was a good singer too, and was fed up for being less famous than Hannibal. She proposed a challenge, a way to show the others that she was better than him:

"You know, Hannibal, there's going to be a singing contest here in the woods. Maybe you should attend it because I heard so much about your voice.

"Maybe you're right. But I do not know if I should, because, as you know, I have anxiety problems. When many animals are looking at me, I get very nervous and my paws start to shake without stopping.

Hannibal rubbed his forehead, with his paw, which was already dripping water, just thinking of such a situation, and added:

"Imagine if I forget the lyrics in front of all those who are watching the show?"

But the ladybird continued to try to persuade the grasshopper to participate, with the intention of, on that day, showing the others that she was better than him.

"You can't be so negative. You have to think you're going to do your best and everything will be fine. After all, the most important thing is not to win, but to participate and let the others hear your beautiful voice," she said in a seductive but misleading voice.

"You're right, I must believe in myself!" Exclaimed the grasshopper, convinced that the ladybird wanted the best for him.

Having said that, he began to walk away, saying:

- I'll see you there, then.

During several nights the grasshopper didn't sleep, just thinking that he would have many animals looking at him and hearing him singing.

When the day of the contest arrived, Hannibal went to the stage but at the first attempt he wasn't able to sing before so many animals. One of his friends, an owl, who was very wise and was worried about him, managed, with a simple secret, to convince Hannibal not to give up. Then the grasshopper full of courage, returned to the stage and sang in a fantastic way, and he won the contest.

The curious thing was that the favourite talk among the forest animals was not about Hannibal winning the contest, but about what the wise owl told him, which gave him such courage to participate and to win!

Moral of the story: If you do not give up your goals, sooner or later you will be able to reach them.



Francisco Antunes, 9th A

The wolf and the sheep

Once upon a time, there was a wolf and a sheep, who lived on a fantastic farm, where there were all friends and happy.

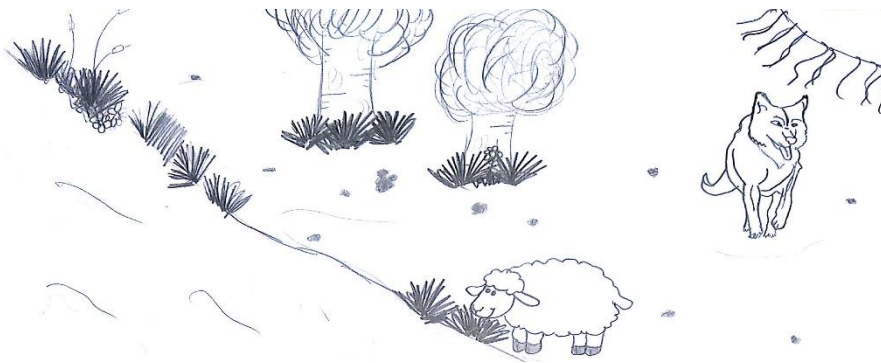
The wolf had not always lived on that farm, because long time ago, he had made many mistakes, and like everyone else, he was given a new opportunity: the opportunity to start all over again in a new home.

The sheep had also had some complicated moments because of the wolf...

We are, however, advancing a lot in the story. Let's go back to the day the sheep met the wolf or, to be more precise, the day the wolf got to know the sheep.

Sometime ago...

The sky was clear and the sun was shining when a sheep was grazing in a green meadow by a stream without knowing she was being watched by a starving wolf. The wolf tried to approach her, but as he took a step, the sheep turned to him and said:



"If you were thinking of eating me, you can turn around and go back to your place! I know the wolves very well. Do you think you're the first one trying to make a great meal out of me?"

The wolf, amazed at the assertiveness of the sheep who looked so innocent, replied: "I do not mean to eat you, I just came to drink water. You don't know but every day I come here to drink water!"

Annoyed for being nearly caught "with his mouth in the jar, so to speak" the wolf went to his house to think of a way to hunt the sheep. He was still surprised by the fact that the sheep had noticed that he intended to eat her. He had an idea: "Tomorrow I'm going back to the stream and I'll try to be more discreet, to see if, this time, I can control my stomach, which growls louder than the music at the rich farm parties. This way the sheep might believe me, that I usually go to that brook every day to drink water and she would not think that I go there on purpose to eat her. "

The next day, there was the sheep grazing and the wolf was watching her again. As soon as the wolf tried to go after the sheep, she left the place where she was and told the wolf:

"I told you I'm not a meal for you!" Stop following me! I believe you can be a good wolf, despite your persistence in hunting me. And I know you were not expecting a sheep like me to respond and not be afraid of you, but we are not always what we look like!"

The wolf refused to stay quiet and replied:

"If you're so smart, why do you keep coming to this side of the meadow, knowing you're in danger of never being with your family again?"

The sheep ignored the wolf and returned to the flock. The wolf, who was still hungry and more eager to eat the sheep, thought that he could go and stay near her, when she was sleeping next to the herd. Eating a sheep would be nice, but eating two or three would be even better! The wolf met the flock at night. As soon as he got to the sheep, he gave her a bite on her paw, which made her wake up at once:

"Meeeeeeeeeeeeeeeh, meeeeeehhhhhhh! My paw hurts so much! I thought that underneath your wolf skin, there would be a heart and that you were better than what I thought. Now you do this to me! You must have gone through the experience of some hunter chasing you to hurt you. I do not know how you could do this to me!? You must know how awful it is to live with someone wanting to end your life at any moment. You have disappointed me!" She cried out in pain."

The wolf was very sensitive to what the sheep had told him, and gave up wanting to eat her, he thought she might be right. He felt so bewildered that he even lost his hunger. He realized that he had felt something that he had never felt before and said:

"Sorry, I never thought of it that way. Actually, I should be the first one not to do this, because I've already been pursued and life has always given me a new opportunity. Right now, I'm feeling very "weird" and I'm no longer hungry!"

"- What you're feeling is called guilt!" Said the sheep.

"- I will never do this again. But I haven't got any food and I haven't eaten for a week. Could I live here on the farm with you?" Asked the wolf.

"Do you think that after what you have done you deserve someone's trust?" The sheep asked.

The wolf, already hopeless, turned and began to walk away, when the sheep cried out:

"- Wait, you can stay here with us! Because you are feeling sorry it is already good. But you have to prove you deserve our trust!" She exclaimed at a safe distance.

The wolf, very happy, said:

"-Thank you very much! I promise I'll try to be better. You will not regret it, sheep. I will do anything to stop being a bad wolf!"

"- I believe so. Now you can eat what you want." Replied the sheep, pointing to the animals' food bag.

And so the wolf became a friend of the sheep and the rest of the flock. Since that day, he has never attacked any other animal.

Moral of the story: when we are involved, it seems that everything is much more important and serious.

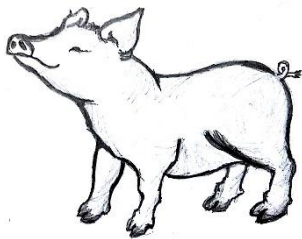
Mariana Amado, 9th B

The pig and the straw bales

In a farm in Alentejo, one of those wonderful places where the animals were really happy, lived six cows.

They all got on very well and the farmer was very dedicated to them: he gave them fresh grass, a good shower and even used to make for them the bed with straw that was very dry and very well done every day.

One day a new inhabitant arrived on the farm. It was the Tornado pig, one of those big, fat pig with an insatiable liking to play. She was running around loose, and she loved jumping over the straw bales, undoing them all and leaving the straw all over, which did not please the cows, even though they found she was funny. One day, however, the game went awry and the straw bales were all dirty and smelly.



Later, when the cows returned from the pasture, they found their beds all covered with mud and with an unbearable bad smell.

The older one said:

"The pig was no longer always undoing the bales, she was also getting them dirty with smelly mud and did not care."

The laughing cow argued:

"She no longer has respect for what belongs to others.

Without being amused the cow mother cow retorted:

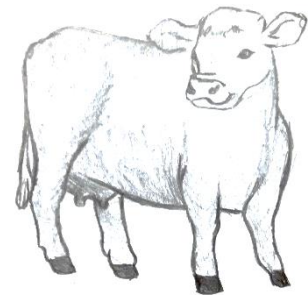
-I hope this changes quickly.

At that very moment, the farmer who was passing by, hearing the cries of the cows, noticed the pitiful state in which the straw was, and said:

"This is Tornado's work. Because of this, she will be kept locked in the backyard!"

The cows all together, moaned with satisfaction. Finally there would be peace again!

From that day on, the pig was placed in the backyard. From time to time, the cows heard "Oinc! Oinc!" And answered, in chorus, "Moooooo!" like meaning "stay there, where you are".



Moral of the story: We can't deprive others of something, just because we enjoy doing it. In addition, when we do not know how to live in a group, we have to live alone.

Igor Neves, 9th A

An Ant

Late summer was approaching. As always, the ants spent most of their time looking for supplies to help them survive in the winter. These insects found food here and there and then carried it to the anthill, always very organized, obeying the orders of the queen of their colony. But despite being hard workers, not all ants thought the same way, which sometimes could bring some problems.

One day a certain ant, known to be disobedient and envious, turned away from the others and went in search of her own supplies, thinking that, this way she would get more supplies and would not have to share them with anyone else.

So, she did it. She found crumbs here and there, but nothing she thought was worthwhile, so she kept going until she found a lot of food on the floor in a picnic area. It was a paradise! She had never seen so much food together. She began to imagine herself in the winter, sitting in her mini-armchair, filling her stomach, doing nothing else, obeying no one ... She knew that that amount would be enough for at least ten ants, but she decided to keep everything only for herself, already imagining herself in her own anthill.

While she was putting her food in a small tunnel that was used as a pantry, a small cicada appeared near her, and he said:

"Oh little ant, you have so much food!"

"- Yes, I have. "Said the ant.

"Could you please give me some of your food?" I am hungry.

"Go and search for your own food for you, this is mine." she replied.

"I'm very hungry, I do not have the strength to walk around. Please, give me some, just so I can get strength. When I get better, I'll look for food and I'll give you some

"I know you will not do it, now go away," she said impatiently.

Sometime later, winter arrived, and the ant, despite having days when she felt alone and confused, when she looked at her supplies, she was filled with pride, because she was having a fine winter, with plenty of food, all just for her!

"-Well, how wonderful. I have enough food for the coldest days. I'm glad I did not give anything to that cicada. He would even still have half of my food! Also it's a good thing I erased the trail to this hiding place, so the ants of my old anthill can't find my food!"

She was absorbed in these and other solitary thoughts, when suddenly she heard a noise of something bigger near her tunnel. She noticed that they had dug, until they found her. Terrified, the ant asked:

"What is this?"

"Good morning, nice to meet you," said one of five grasshoppers, who looked at her greedily.

"What do you want?"

-You know we want your food! Said the grasshopper, rudely. "And we'll take it."

-No. Said the ant with conviction.

-No? Do you think you alone are going to stop us?

"At least leave me something to eat." Begged the ant.

-Do you think we will leave anything? You're very lucky we do not eat you too, "the grasshopper said with irony.

The grasshoppers took all the ant's food, leaving the ant in a corner sobbing. Not a crumb left. How would she survive?

In panic, desperate, as it was already dusk, she stood there, unhappy, and moaned all night.

The next day the unhappy ant went to search for food, but it was not easy, because it was really very cold.

Distraught, cold, hungry and alone, the ant was found by the cicada.

-You're hungry, do you want any help? The cicada asked her.

-Yes please. Cried the little ant desperately.

"Come with me, I have food."

And off they went.

The cicada fed the ant, and the ant said:

- Cicada, thank you! You are very nice, you are not like me. I'm so sorry for what I did to you.

-It's okay, I forgive you.

"I do not want to be bothering you anymore, I'm leaving. Said the ant.

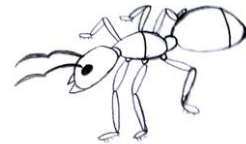
"But you have no food, and with the snow you have your tunnel destroyed."

"You do not mind me staying here?" The amazed ant asked

"No, I can have your company." Said the cicada, who was not given to grudges.

And so the ant stayed with the cicada until the end of winter.

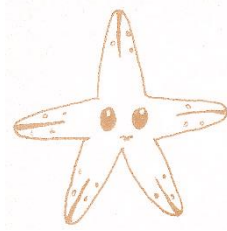
What happened next? Nobody knows. Perhaps the ant had learned her lesson and realized that her place was in the colony, dealing with other ants and their partners. In the spring she would decide.



Marta Antunes, 9th C

A real star

In an ocean, there are several species of fish, each with its own characteristics that makes it unique. There was one special fish, Esther, a starfish, who lived alone and unhappy. Like anywhere, there was a leader, Tiberius, a shark who tormented all the creatures of the sea, even those of his species.



Tiberius behaved strangely, frightened all of them with his size and sharp teeth and he enjoyed it. He also had fun chasing other creatures. In fact, he felt superior and felt the leader. But he was a tyrannical leader, and because of that, everyone was afraid of him. He didn't have friends.

Seeing this situation, Esther decided to overcome her shyness and shared her opinion with everyone: she thought that if they all joined their strength together, they could overcome Tiberius and show him that he did not have to be bad to attract the attention of the others.

So they planned everything very well. They started by getting his attention through playing next to his house so that he could hear them. It didn't take long before Tiberius came out and followed them. Esther gave the signal:

"One, two, three: attack!"

And they all attacked the shark. Tiberius was frightened and hid in the midst of the algae. It was at that moment that Esther realized that they were being as bad to him as he was to them. So Esther asked him to explain himself. He said:

"I'm sorry! I have now realized the bad things, I have done to you! I hope you can forgive me!"

Of course, Esther and her friends forgave him. And soon they were all playing together.

Esther went to the surface with Tiberius and looked at the stars. He said to Esther,

"-You're a real star! And for us, you shine brighter than any star in the sky!"

Noémia Sopas, 9th B

END



It was a long, long time ago ... In the time when the animals use to speak! **It Was a LONG, LONG time ago ... IN the**

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