

# four fables

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**Fable** - a short story, typically with talking animals as characters, conveying a moral.

**Content -**

A Permie Bees Fable

The Crow and the Owl

In the Pool

Reeve's Bridge

## **A Permie Bees Fable**

The story starts with Joe Farmer spraying pesticides onto his fields.

The Hive is sick from the poison, and bees are dying.

Queenie Bee is sick, too. The hive is worried for their leader.

A call goes out to pray for their sick and dead comrades.

Worker bees are looking to relocate and build a new hive.

Using Permaculture Principle 5: "Use & value renewable resources & services",

the Scout Bees are on the look-out for a new hive location.

The bees locate an abandoned farm house and clean fields down in the adjacent valley.

Lead by the worker bees, they relocate the Hive community to the old barn.

**Moral? If you are sure of the next step, others will follow.**

## **The Crow and the Owl**

The barn owls are medium-sized owls with large heads and characteristic heart-shaped faces.

Crows are commonly associated with change, transformation, and knowledge or wisdom.

"Hey Mr. Owl, leave some mincey mice for the Crows, will ya?!"

"I leave nothing for others to eat," said the Owl.

The birds face-off, having alighted on the top of the farmers barn.

"You live the life of the dead, the road kill and the leftovers." asserted Ms. Owl.

"And you live inside barns," stated Mr. Crow!

"You hang out in a murder of crows!" The Owl screeched.

"But you are a loner." said the Crow.

The pair are partners that help clean and maintain the ecosystem from rodents.

"Who is wiser, me or you?" cooed the Owl.

"Me," said the Crow.

**Moral? One bird's live meal is another bird's roadkill feast.**

## In the Pool

Friends:

Frog - Eggy

Dragonfly - Meadowhawk

Turtle - Eyclight

Sam - 13-year-old girl

"Hey, wait for me!" Sam is rolling up her pant legs so she can get into the water. A pond is calling her to the edge of the water and her friends: Eggy, Meadowhawk and Eyclight. All summer friends of Sam.

A seasonal pond, also known as a vernal pool, is a small, temporary wetland that fills with water in the spring and dries up in the summer. They are a vital habitat for many species of amphibians, insects, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Eyclight is the wise one. "Here is the data on our vernal pool from the internet I mentioned yesterday:"

"On size: Seasonal ponds can range in size from small puddles to shallow lakes."

"Location: They are often found in upland forests, glaciated areas, and low meadows."

"The water source: They are filled by rain and snow melt in the spring."

"As to a water outlet: They have no permanent inlet or outlet."

"And soil: They are usually found on gently sloping plains of grassland, with a hard clay layer or bedrock beneath."

Meadowhawk alights on the back of Eyclight, enjoying the ride. Their pool is 60 feet in diameter and 7.5 feet deep. Milkweed garnishes the edges.

Eggy has found a rock to rest on and groaks: "You guys are swell pals. I wish this pool would last past the summer dry-out." The vernal pool comes and goes each spring and Sam understands that her buddies will not be around forever. "We have such a good time," she says, out of the blue.

"Humans are funny. They carry their canvas houses into the wild." Eggy.

Sam pitches her tent and rolls out her sleeping bag, getting ready for a star show.

In the morning, the crew lounges in the vernal pool, and Meadowhawk splashes the others with dew. Sam: "Thanks for the shower!"

As summer warms along, the four pals watch their pool evaporate and the Milkweed bough to seed.

Meadowhawk molts. Eyelight migrates. Eggy jumps for the river. Sam goes back to school.

The friends have a lasting memory from a short-term gig.

**Moral? Enjoy your friends while you have them.**



**William Paul: Blogger, storyteller, and poet**

## **Revee's Bridge**

Dawn is a teenage girl looking for an Eagle Scout candidate looking for a community service project. Revee is a male beaver who is living in the wild. Together they make a log bridge for the new city trail.

Beavers eat mainly during the night since beavers are nocturnal. Typical foods include bark, leaves, twigs, buds of deciduous trees, aquatic vegetation, and lily roots. Beavers prefer maple, aspen, birch, poplar, willow, and alder.

Dawn has the land use plan for the park with the location of the foot bridge identified. Swenson's Stream is a year-round stream that flows through the property. She has tagged the trees that are needed for the foot bridge.

Revee: "I see the extent of the cutting now." He begins to gnaw on the first birch tree near the bank of the stream. "Thank you for the leaves and twigs of this beautiful birch."

Dawn: "Ours is a prime example of a symbiotic relationship." Revee doesn't know what she is talking about but grunts yes in agreement. "Nothing will go to waste."

Revee has invited his children to help cut and position the logs for the bridge. Dawn's estimate has proven correct. 21 trees were needed.

**Moral? Beavers make great bridges.**



