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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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fa·ble  (fā bəl)

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n.

1. A usually short narrative making an edifying or cautionary point and often employing as characters animals that speak and act like humans.
2. A story about legendary persons and exploits.
3. A falsehood; a lie.

v. **fa·bled, fa·bling, fa·bles**

v.tr.

To recount as if true.

v.intr.

Archaic

To compose fables.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *fābula*, from *fārī*, to speak; see **bhā**-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

fa bler *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

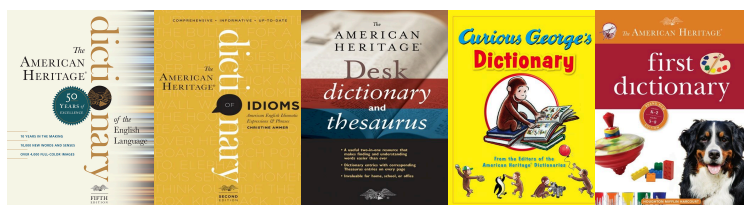
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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