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**Before You Read**

*Notice while you are reading the proverbs in this book that many of the themes are universal. For example, all of the following proverbs are about patience and understanding—even though they come from different countries all over the world.*

It takes time to build castles. Rome was not built in a day.

*~Irish proverb*

Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a singing bird will come.

*~Chinese proverb*

As we live, so we learn.

*~Yiddish proverb*

Clouds gather before a storm.

*~proverb of unknown origin*

Deal with the faults of others as gently as with your own.

*~Chinese proverb*

**Before You Read**

*The term “sour grapes,” which means to deny your desire for something because you can’t get it, was derived from this fable.*

## The Fox and the Grapes

One hot summer’s day, Fox was walking through an orchard when he came to a bunch of grapes ripe and purple on a vine. “Just the thing to quench my thirst,” he said.

Fox took a run and a jump but missed the bunch. He turned around again and cried, “One, two, three!” He jumped up but missed the grapes again. Once more, Fox tried to reach the tempting grapes. At last, he gave up and walked away with his nose in the air, saying: “I am sure those grapes are sour.”

**Moral:** It is easy to scorn what you cannot get.

~Aesop