

Story 15: The Fox



Story shared by: *Oksana (and family)*

Representing: *Ukrainian*

The Story:

There was once a great forest, and in this forest, there was a fox. This was not just any fox, but a fox who had a pet chicken. The pair wandered through the thicket, making their way around branches and bushes until the sun went down. When darkness set upon the land, the Fox began to realize that she had nowhere to sleep that night. But just as the thought struck, she looked down her path and saw a small cottage nestled between the trees, just a short stroll away.

The fox made her way to the house, with the chicken following closely behind. As they finally made it to the front door, the fox balled her paw and knocked. Moments later, a man opened the door. The fox sweetly explained that she had nowhere else to go, and wondered if he would host her for the night. "Sure!" The man said, "but I do not have much space. You will have to sleep on top of the oven, which will keep you nice and warm." The fox gratefully accepted, and followed the man inside to get comfortable.

She rested and lazed on the oven until the man was soundly asleep. That was when her stomach began to rumble. "There's my cue," she thought to herself, and hopped down from the toasty oven. She then ate her chicken, hiding its bones outside in the forest before finding her place back on the oven. When she awoke the next morning, the fox stepped off of the oven and furiously confronted the man, claiming that her chicken was missing, and that he must be responsible for stealing it. "I did not take your chicken," stated the man in confusion, "but I have a coop full of ducks, maybe it is in there?" "No," the fox replied, "my chicken is not there. To repay me for this, you will have to give me a duck." The man reluctantly obliged, and the Fox continued on her way through the forest.

As the sun set on the second night, she and her duck stumbled upon another cottage, with a whole gaggle of geese in the backyard! The fox knocked on the door, explained her situation, and kindly accepted the man's hospitality. Once again, she waited for him to fall asleep before sneakily eating her duck and hiding the bones. In the morning, she angrily complained about the theft of her duck, demanding a goose in exchange. The homeowner begrudgingly gave her a goose, and she continued on her way through the forest.



The sun went down once again, and the fox approached the next nearest home, asking for a place to sleep. The man opened his door to her, showing her where to sleep. In the night, she waited to hear him snore before eating her new goose, hiding the bones, and going to sleep. She awoke the next morning and made her usual accusation, this time receiving a lamb in return.

The Fox walked her lamb through the forest until the light started to dim when she casually approached the nearest home, once again requesting a stay for the night. The man said “yes of course, but I have a big family and little space. You must put your lamb outside in the cow pasture.” “No matter,” the fox replied, and settled into her home for the night. When the house was quiet and she was sure that everyone was asleep, the fox got up, yet again, and ate her lamb. The next morning, she told the man of her missing lamb. Growing confident in her scam, the fox slyly said, “Someone here has stolen my lamb! Now you owe me. To pay your debt, you must give me your son's wife!” “Fine.” the man said, handing her a big bag with something large, and live inside. Little did the fox know, however, that the man had a trick up his sleeve. Instead of his son’s wife, he had put two large hounds in the bag. The fox left, happily accepting her prize. As the fox made her way through the forest, however, she grew suspicious of the dog-like barking sounds coming from the bag. Out of curiosity she opened it, only to be chased into a hole by two wild and aggressive hounds!

The fox sat in the hole in a state of shock and terror. “Feet, what were you doing when I was running away from those hounds?” she cried, to which they responded “we were running as fast as we could so that the hounds would not eat your beautiful, golden fur!” “Wow, Feet, you are so nice, I will buy you a pair of golden shoes in return,” she said gratefully. “Eyes, what were you doing when I was running away from the dogs?” the fox asked next. “We were looking out so that you could run as fast as you could!” And the fox asked each of her body parts what they were doing while she ran away from the hounds before finally reaching her tail. “Tail, what were you doing while I ran from the hounds?” she asked. But this time, the tail got offended. “You know what? I was trying to get you stuck in the trees so that your golden fur would be torn apart, and the hounds would eat you!” “I HATE YOU,” replied the fox, sticking her tail out of the hole and telling the hounds to bite it off. But the hounds were one step ahead. They grabbed the fox by the tail, pulled her out of the hole, and ate her for dinner.

Story Moral: *Be wary of your cleverness, your luck may run out.*