

*The Fox that asked
for Shelter*

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1. THE FOX THAT ASKED FOR SHELTER

2. Once upon a time a wise old fox grew terribly hungry. So he took an empty sack and went out into the world to look for some food.

3. By evening he came to a farmhouse. The fox knocked at the door and said: "I am a poor homeless traveller, do have a heart and put me up for the night."

4. The farmer and his wife were kind people. They let him in and gave him supper. "You can sleep here, you poor fellow", they said to him.

5. "I have a nice big rooster here in this sack. Do you think it will be safe here?" the fox asked. "Have no fear, good fox", said the farmer with a laugh, "nothing has ever got lost in my house."

6. Next morning the fox began to cry. "Dear, oh dear! My valuable bird has been stolen!" They looked for the cock all over the place but no one could find it.

7. At last the farmer gave the fox a nice big cock. "Now stop crying and go with peace."

8. Off went the fox, grinning to himself. That evening he knocked at another farmhouse door. Here, too, he found kind people who gave him shelter for the night.

9. After supper the fox asked the farmer in a low voice: "I have got a nice, fat goose here in this sack. Do you think it will be safe during the night?" The farmer laughed: "Have no fear! There are no thieves in my house."

10. The fox waited until everyone went to sleep. Then he took the cock from the sack and ate every tiny bit of it.

11. Next morning the farmer and his wife were woken up by terrible sobbing: "Oh, dear, oh, dear! Someone has stolen my valuable goose!"

12. At last the farmer gave the fox a goose. "I don't want you to cry because you have lost something in my house."

13. Off went the fox and that evening he arrived at another house. Again he knocked at the door and here, too, he was welcome.

14. Before going to bed the fox said: "I will put my sack here beside this bench but even so I am afraid to go to sleep because there is a nice, fat piggy in it." "Have no fear!" they said.

15. Needless to say that in the morning they all looked for the piggy in vain. The sack was empty because the fox ate the goose during the night. The fox whimpered until the farmer gave him a nice, fat piglet.

16. In the evening he knocked at the door of another farmhouse. "I am afraid of thieves, I don't want my fine, fat piggy to be stolen!"

17. The farmer looked at the sack carefully and saw that it would not hold a fat pig. But he did not say a word.

18. In the morning the fox began to moan again: "Oh, dear, oh, dear!" "Never mind, I'll give you two fat pigs instead of one!" The farmer took the sack with him and soon returned and gave the kicking sack to the fox.

19. The fox could hardly wait to see the two pigs. When he opened the sack, out jumped the farmer's two wild hounds! Had the fox not come to a bad end, my tale would have been longer.

20. Adapted from a cartoon film of Marcell Jankovich
Drawings by Gizella Neuberger
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cing Company

THE END