



The Tale of Tricky Fox

Jim Aylesworth , Barbara McClintock (Illustrator)

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Old Fox uses his sack to trick everyone he meets into giving him ever more valuable items.

The Tale of Tricky Fox Details

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From Reader Review The Tale of Tricky Fox for online ebook

595AJ_NikkiHuske says

Alas, the fox fooled many, but was in the end taught a valuable lesson by a teacher. She won't be fooled by any trickster's wise antics. This trickster tale has expressive characters that are engaging and humorous.

This a great book to use as a read aloud in a primary classroom. With its repetition and rhyme, young readers are sure to chime along as this book is read over and over. Those who are fans of the Gingerbread Man will become fans of this book too. Especially with a cookie recipe on the back cover. Who can resist?

Elizabeth says

AR 3.9

Jess says

Tricky Fox bets his brother that he can trick a human into giving him a pig.

So, gotta be honest. I didn't think would work well as a readloud. It's a bit long and the illustrations look, well, old & not kid friendly. Totally thought I was going to lower my head and push through. So why'd I try? Someone I trust (my mom!) recommended it to me & found it on several readloud lists. What is life but an opportunity to try things out?

Totally worked. Yeah. Entirely. I had the attention of each of my 1st grade classes, despite their squirrelly-Friday-it's-spring nature. I had them, quiet and listening for the whole thing. So there you go.

Don't totally dig the illustrations. They're well drawn, but I wish it was brighter and bolder and whatnot.

Note: Retelling of Trickster tale from New England

Sarah says

Traditional Literature: folktale-- trickster tale

Characters: Tricky Fox, Brother Fox, and four 'old ladies' (one of whom is a teacher)

Setting: a school house in New England; woods that aren't very far away

Themes: honesty, integrity, respect, greed, bragging,

Summary: Tricky Fox bragged to Brother Fox that he could steal a fat pig, to which Brother Fox replied, "I'll eat my hat if you do!" Tricky Fox then proceeded to visit three different elderly women, over the course of three consecutive nights, and trick each of them into giving him first a loaf of bread, then a pig, then a chicken. On the fourth night, Tricky Fox visited a woman who turned out to be a teacher, and she was able to turn the tables on the fox and trick him instead. Although Tricky Fox is a trickster tale, it has a bit of 'pourquoi' to it, because it ends with the teacher explaining to her students that "because of what happened, you never hear foxes singing sassy songs... and you never, ever see one wearing a hat."

Target Audience: 2nd-5th grade

Curriculum Ties: genre study, ethics, morals, politics, culture, trickster tales, literature study, roles of animals in folktales, symbols

Personal response: Tricky Fox is a clever trickster tale, in that it is the trickster himself who ends up tricked. The book is a bit longer than some trickster tales, but that is appropriate due to the complexity of the plot of this folktale. McClintock's illustrations use soft colors and lots of detail, which contribute to the tone of the story. The pictures remind me of Peter Rabbit, which help to make me envision this tale as being set in New England. The characters' clothing helps to set the time period as well. This is a fun book that will help young students to firm up their grasp on the elements of a solid trickster tale.

Kathryn Bergeron says

Summary: Tricky Fox needs to get a pig, and he'll be tricky to do it.

Review: This book was fine. I thought that it had a good moral at the end, which I appreciate. It's just not really one of my favorites.

Jason says

Poor behavior abounds and is, in some respects, applauded. The book opens as a teacher reading a story to her class. The story is about a fox who gets along in life through deceit. He ends up tricking a few people until he meets a teacher. All the people he tricks lie to him, so they are not sympathetic. He tricks the teacher as well (like the others, the trick only works because she also lies to him), but because—as the book says—teachers are smarter (but apparently not more honest) than normal humans, she discovers his deceit. Her response is revenge, which she accomplishes through ... deceit. And she is supposed to be the hero of the story.

The Brothers says

A tale in the style of Aesop's fables about a fox who makes a bet with his brother that he can carry away a pig in his bag. The brother says he'll eat his hat if Tricky Fox can do it. And through some devious plans at the expense of human curiosity, Tricky Fox almost gets away with it. But his last victim is a teacher, and as

the author of this story states, teachers are harder to fool than regular humans.

Excellent illustrations.

Katie Fleming says

"The Tale of Tricky Fox" tells the tale of how a teacher made foxes realize they should respect humans instead of trying to trick them. Tricky Fox tells his brother that he can trick a human into giving him a pig. So Tricky Fox sets out with a sack with a log instead. He asks a lady if he could stay the night and tricks her into giving her a loaf of bread to replace his log. This goes on and on from the bread into a chicken and then the chicken in turn for a pig. But instead of getting a pig, the last lady was a teacher and knew of Tricky Fox's ways. Instead, she gives him a bulldog. The bulldog chases Tricky Fox and his brother and they both learn their lesson. I really enjoyed this book. Although it was a little repetitive, I loved the ending. I would definitely consider reading this book to a classroom.

Sarah Middlestead says

A New England tale. Lovely illustrations.

babyhippoface says

Not sure whether it's that Tricky Fox is really that tricky or just that the people he meets are slow on the uptake. Thank goodness for a clever teacher who gives him a taste of his own medicine.

I think this is my favorite kind of trickster tale, where the trickster gets tricked. (Serves him right.) McClintock's watercolor, ink, and gouache illustrations are incredibly detailed, and the image toward the end of the two foxes gawking at the bulldog cracks me up.

I'm planning to use this American tale from New England with my 2nd graders in our unit on multicultural folklore.

Gwen the Librarian says

This is a classic and old-fashioned tale of a tricky fox - reminiscent of Brer Fox - who wants to get the better of some humans and get a pig in the process. Engagingly told with great vocabulary and some rhyming songs, this would make a great read-aloud. I always enjoy Barbara McClintock's old-fashioned and beautifully rendered illustrations.

Michael Fitzgerald says

I noticed a Sendak-like quality to some of the fox pictures, but was informed by a note at the end that the real inspiration for both McClintock and Sendak was Wilhelm Busch.

Jackie says

Tricky Fox thinks he is very tricky...but, he can fool some of the humans some of the time, but not every one! Nightly, as he creeps up to cottages, he tricks the residents into replacing the 'lost' contents of his bag, that is until he reaches the cottage of one smart teacher, who has a few tricks of her own!

The Tale of Tricky Fox is short and to-the-point in this tale of consequences. The illustrations are gorgeous and the lesson is right on point.

Karen says

Fun story with beautiful illustrations..krb 6/27/17

Perry says

Go, teachers!
