

## The Fox and the Rabbit

There was once a very clever fox who loved to brag of his cleverness. One day he said to the rabbit, "I am so clever," he said "that I know a hundred ways to escape enemies."

"Wow," the rabbit said. "I have only one, but it works well."

The fox said, "You should listen to me, I will teach you many, many more. You should know many ways to escape like I do."

Just at that moment, the fox and the rabbit heard the cry of a pack of hunters coming toward them.

Immediately, the rabbit leaped down his hole and was gone. He called back to the fox, "This is my plan. What are you going to do?"

The Fox thought first of one way, then another, then he thought of a better way, then he considered another way, and while he was thinking of all his clever choices, the hunters caught him up and he was soon carried off.

### ACTIVITY - 9

One way that we know that the fox and the rabbit are symbols is because they do not represent real foxes or rabbits. When something is not symbolic, when it only represents exactly what it is in real life and nothing else, we say it has its "literal" meaning. *Literal*, *literary*, and *literature* are all related to the word for *letters*, for words. The literal meaning of a word is it's exact, factual meaning. For example, if your friend says, "I am dead tired", you know that your friend is not literally dead, because he is alive and talking to you! He is exaggerating. He is not using the literal meaning of the word "dead".

We know that the fox and the rabbit story is not *literally* about foxes and rabbits. Real foxes and rabbits do not have conversations about cleverness, at least, they don't have such conversations in English!

One way to think about the meaning of a symbolic story is to think about things in real life that are *like* the symbol in the story. What kind





of person might act the way the fox does? What kind of person or characteristic of a person might the rabbit represents? Is the rabbit clever or foolish? Is he brave or cowardly? In real life, what might behave the way the hunters do, coming in quickly and ending the conversation the way they do?

**Discuss these ideas with a group and work together to write the paragraph.**

Our group thinks that the fox symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_  
because he is like \_\_\_\_\_ real  
life. The rabbit stands for \_\_\_\_\_  
because he is like \_\_\_\_\_ in real life. The  
hunters might represent \_\_\_\_\_ because  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### ACTIVITY - 10

**Read the story to yourself. Mark any words you don't understand. Use a dictionary, the internet, or your classmates who may help you to understand each word and idea in the story.**

One night, Emperor Akbar dreamt that he had lost all his teeth, except one. The next morning he invited all the astrologers of his kingdom to interpret this dream.

After a long discussion, the astrologers prophesized that all his relatives would die before him.

Emperor Akbar was very upset by this interpretation and so sent away all the astrologers without any reward.

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Later that day, Birbal entered the darbar. Emperor Akbar related his dream and asked him to interpret it. After thinking for a while Birbal replied that the Emperor would live a longer and more fulfilled life than any of his relatives.

Emperor Akbar was pleased with Birbal's explanation and rewarded him handsomely.