

THE CAT AND THE FOX

retold from AESOP by Rohini Chowdhury

One day a cat and a fox were having a conversation. The fox, who was a conceited creature, boasted how clever she was. 'Why, I know at least a hundred tricks to get away from our mutual enemies, the dogs,' she said.

'I know only one trick to get away from dogs,' said the cat. 'You should teach me some of yours!'

'Well, maybe some day, when I have the time, I may teach you a few of the simpler ones,' replied the fox airily.

Just then they heard the barking of a pack of dogs in the distance. The barking grew louder and louder - the dogs were coming in their direction! At once the cat ran to the nearest tree and climbed into its branches, well out of reach of any dog. 'This is the trick I told you about, the only one I know,' she called down to the fox. 'Which one of your hundred tricks are you going to use?'

The fox sat silently under the tree, wondering which trick she should use. Before she could make up her mind, the dogs arrived. They fell upon the fox and tore her to pieces.

Message: A single plan that works is better than a hundred unsure ones.

Vocabularies:

1. Conceited- arrogant
2. Airily- arrogantly
3. Mutual- Having the same relationship each to the other

Let's talk:

1. Who are the main characters of the story?
2. What are they talking about?
3. What happened when the dogs arrived?
4. Why haven't the fox made use any one of her tricks?
5. If you were the fox, what would you do before the dogs arrived?
6. What is meant by the message of the story?

