

***The Fox Busters* by Dick King-Smith in the key stage 2 classroom**

READING ALOUD

I recommend *The Fox Busters* to be read aloud to any key stage 2 class. The book can be read purely for pleasure or you may want to follow up the reading with some work. The suggestions below may help to develop your own ideas for responding to the story.



PREPARE THE READING

Read the book to yourself so that you can decide how much time you will need to complete the whole story. Remember, children are learning as they listen. You are demonstrating how to use different voices for characters and how to add excitement to events and 'cliffhanger' endings. It is important that all the class, no matter what their reading ability, share the pleasure of hearing a story. When you read through to yourself, make a note of aspects of literacy learning (vocabulary, character, description etc.) that you might return to when responding to the story.

RESPONDING TO THE BOOK

Always give time for children to think and talk about their personal responses to a story. Let them tell each other, in pairs or small groups, what they particularly liked or disliked. A short discussion is often enough. Don't feel that the children have to follow up every book you read aloud to them.



Sometimes you will plan further work around the book. There are always such tasks as looking things up and creative response through drama, artwork or music.

Go online or visit the library

- There are many stories about the battles between foxes and chicken which may be found in the library. Examples include Chicken Licken and Chaucer's tale of Chanticleer
- Sort out the facts from the fiction about hens and foxes: which things in the story are true about chickens and what has Dick King-Smith invented? For example: do hens really eat grit and stones?
- Where did the chickens get their names? Try searching the names online
 - The three sisters' names are **Ransome, Sims and Jefferies**
 - Their mother is called **Spillers**
 - Their father is called **Massey- Harris**
 - Icky is how the hens pronounce **ICI**

Share your work

- Present any interesting findings from your research:
 - On paper as written and illustrated descriptions, reports or posters
 - As PowerPoint presentations on screen
- Use your imagination to make up another story about foxes in the farmyard. Don't forget that in fiction anything can happen. You can present it as a piece of writing, a play or a comic strip

- Make up a movement sequence to show a scene where the three sisters outwit the four foxes. How will the chickens move? How will the foxes move? Who wins?
- Choose a favourite part of the story to illustrate as a drawing, painting or collage

Very occasionally the book can lead to a whole cross-curricular project which, in addition to research and response activities, might include:

- A trip out of school - possibly to a farm or a country park
- A class presentation to the school (assembly, play or concert)

**The most important thing is that you and your class
ENJOY THE STORY OF *THE FOX BUSTERS*.**

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