



The Fox and the Crow

Part 1

Teacher Reads A fable is a short story that uses animal characters to teach a lesson about human behavior. In this fable about Fox and Crow, one of the animal characters learns a valuable lesson about trusting those who give too many compliments, comments that say something good about someone.

On a bright, sunlit day, Crow just had to have
10 something to eat. All of a sudden, he saw a chunk of
22 cheese in the grass. “Such luck!” he said to himself.
32 “I will have such a grand meal!” Crow picked up the
43 cheese in his beak. Then he went up to a high branch
55 of a tree to eat it.

61 A passing Fox saw Crow with the cheese, and he
71 began to think of a plan. “I must have that cheese!”
82 said Fox to himself, with a grin.

Part 2

Teacher Reads Fox has a plan in mind. Read on to find out what it is.

89 “Greetings, Crow!” said Fox, looking up at him.
97 Crow sat on the high branch and held the cheese in
108 his beak.
110 “You are looking well today!” said Fox. Fox waited
119 for Crow to speak. As Fox looked up at Crow, he was
131 thinking, “If Crow speaks, the cheese will drop from
140 his beak.” But Crow did not say a thing. He held on to
153 the cheese.



Part 2 continued

155 Fox went on. “You are such a handsome sight!
164 In fact, you are the best-looking crow in the land!”
175 Crow looked down at Fox. He was thrilled with
184 Fox’s praise, but he did not say a thing.
193 Fox kept on with the praise. “You have wings of
203 black silk and a beak that is splendid!” Crow puffed up
214 his chest, but he still did not speak.

Part 3

Teacher Reads So far, Crow has not let go of the cheese. Keep reading to see if Crow responds, or says something, to Fox.

222 “I bet that you can **sing**,” said Fox. “Am I right?
233 Please, Crow, will you sing a **song**?” he asked. “I may
244 weep if I do not get a sweet song from you!” he added
257 with a sigh. “Indeed, I will not sleep tonight unless
267 you sing.”
269 Crow wished to show off to Fox, and he **sang** a
280 song. When he did, the cheese fell from his beak and
291 landed right next to Fox’s feet. Fox picked up the
301 cheese and ran off with it. “Thank you, Crow!” Fox
311 yelled with glee. Crow saw Fox’s trick, and he was mad
322 at himself for thinking the praise was real.
330