

FOX WENT OUT ON A CHILLY NIGHT

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Book by Peter Spier

Themes: Songs/Fall Season

Grade Levels: K-2

Running Time: 8 minutes, iconographic

SUMMARY

This story is about the trip Mr. Fox takes through fields filled with autumn leaves, pumpkins, and other signs of the fall season to reach Mr. Giggle-Gaggle's farm and snatch geese and ducks for dinner. The story is told in song, with a rhythm sure to capture the attention of its young audience. The end of this story finds the fox returning to his den, having escaped Mr. Giggle-Gaggle, and feasting on the goose with his family. Finally, children are invited to join in and sing the words once again with a guitar accompaniment.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will appreciate a story set to music.
- Children will explore the autumn season.
- Children will learn about foxes and their behaviors.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book, *The Fox Went Out On A Chilly Night*, with children. Then ask:

- How can you tell that the story takes place during the fall season?
- Talk with children about the fall season. Ask:
- What happens outdoors during fall?
 - What kinds of things do you see growing

on trees and on vines along the ground?

- What kinds of smells do you enjoy during the fall?

- What colors do you see?

Help children recognize the many different signs of fall.

Have children describe a fox. Explain that foxes are hunters and search for small animals, including rabbits, birds and mice for their food. Tell children that foxes live in dens, which are large holes in the ground. Also explain that foxes are very good at hearing, seeing and smelling which helps them hunt and keeps them safe from other animals.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Invite a guitar player to your classroom. Encourage children to sing along with familiar tunes you might ask your guest to play. Then have your guest play the song, "The Fox Went Out On A Chilly Night." See how much of the song children can remember.

Create a "Signs Of Fall" display in your classroom. Have children bring in colorful leaves, cider, pumpkins, gourds, corn husks and other signs of the fall season. As children travel back and forth to school each day during this season, encourage them to look, listen, touch and smell carefully in order to appreciate the ways the season appeals to each of their senses.

Have children dramatize the last scene where

Mr. Fox returns to his den with his prey. Supply a goose made of cardboard, large twigs to represent bones, and bushy fox tails made from scrap pieces of fur or cloth that children can use as props.

Later, give children an opportunity to think about the ways animals take care of their survival needs. Ask:

- What would the fox family have done if Mr. Fox had not returned with food?
- What might have happened to the baby foxes?
- What other ways do you think the fox cares for his young?

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