

Fantastic Mr Fox* by *Roald Dahl

Age 7-9

Reasons for selection and synopsis

Boggis, Bunce and Bean are the meanest three farmers you could meet. They are determined to get Mr Fox - but he has other plans!

Fantastic Mr Fox is a true classic that will have your children gripped and roaring with laughter.

Before reading...

Ask the children to look at the front cover. What do you think the book will be about? What things can you see on the front cover?

What sort of story will it be? Who might enjoy it?

Think of the title Fantastic Mr Fox. What might it tell you about the story?

Now read the blurb. What does this tell you about the story?

Make some predictions about what might happen in the story.

Look at the author Roald Dahl. Do you know any of his other stories? Which ones can you name?

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary
Infer
Predict
Explain
Retrieve
Sequence or Summarise



The following questions are designed as prompts only – allow the children to come up with their own questions and ideas. They will be much more engaged this way.

Chapter 1 and 2

Vocabulary	<p>What words on Page 1 show that the farmers aren't very nice?</p> <p>Find a word that means 'short' on Page 3. However, the word should not be to do with size, rather it should refer to patience.</p> <p>What phrase shows that Mr Fox loves his wife?</p>
Infer	<p>Why is Boggis so fat?</p> <p>How do you know Bunce is short?</p> <p>Do you think Bunce's diet is good for him? Explain your answer.</p> <p>Why might Bean be so thin?</p> <p>Do the children like the farmers?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what will happen when the farmers hide outside the tree.</p>
Explain	<p>Why might Roald Dahl have used alliteration for the farmers' names?</p> <p>Do you think it's right for Mr Fox to steal? Explain your answer fully.</p>
Retrieve	<p>How many farms were in the valley?</p> <p>What were the farmers' names?</p> <p>What does Boggis keep?</p> <p>What does Bunce farm?</p> <p>What does Bean's farm produce?</p> <p>Where does Mr Fox live?</p> <p>How did Mr Fox always avoid getting caught?</p>
Summarise	<p>Use one word to describe each of the farmers. Explain your choice.</p> <p>Summarise the farmers' plan in twenty words or less.</p>

Chapter 3 and 4

Vocabulary	<p>What word on Page 10 shows that Mr Fox doesn't respect the farmers?</p> <p>Find a word on Page 11 that means 'arrogant'.</p> <p>Find a phrase on Page 14 that shows that Bean is impatient.</p> <p>What does 'glumly' mean?</p>
Infer	<p>Why was there no chance of the farmers being smelled out?</p> <p>Why does Mr Fox sniff the air before leaving his hole?</p> <p>How does Mr Fox spot the gun?</p> <p>Why is Mr Fox glum?</p> <p>Why was there no food that night?</p>
Predict	<p>At the end of Chapter 3, predict whether the farmers will be able to dig Mr Fox out.</p> <p>At the end of Page 17, predict Mr Fox's plan.</p>
Explain	<p>How does Dahl create tension in Chapter 3?</p>
Retrieve	<p>What does Mrs Fox want for tea?</p> <p>Why do they need two ducks?</p> <p>What does Mr Fox decide was rustling?</p> <p>What gets shot off?</p> <p>What do the farmers decide to do instead of waiting?</p> <p>Why does Mr Fox know he can outrun the farmers?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise what happens to Mr Fox in less than thirty words.</p>
Writing Opportunity	<p>Write a newspaper report about the shooting of Mr Fox.</p>

Chapter 5 and 6

Vocabulary	<p>What phrase on Page 20 shows the farmers were digging for a long time?</p> <p>Find a word on Page 24 that shows it is vital that the foxes escape?</p> <p>What is a 'crater'?</p> <p>Define 'obstinate'.</p>
Infer	<p>Why can't Bean hear?</p> <p>How can you tell the race between the foxes and the tractors is close?</p> <p>Why do the villagers gather round?</p> <p>Why do the villagers laugh and jeer?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what will happen in Chapter 5 from the title.</p> <p>Predict what will happen when the mechanical tractors start to dig.</p>
Explain	<p>How does Quentin Blake make the machines look scary?</p>
Retrieve	<p>What does Bean want to do with Mr Fox?</p> <p>What do they replace their handheld shovels with?</p> <p>What does Mrs Fox think the awful noise is?</p> <p>Why didn't the farmers stop for lunch?</p>
Summarise	<p>Draw an emotion graph for Boggis, Bunce and Bean in these two chapters.</p>

Chapter 7 and 8

Vocabulary	<p>What phrase shows anger on Page 29?</p> <p>Find a phrase that means promise on Page 29.</p> <p>What does 'wafted' mean? Can you think of some synonyms for it?</p>
Infer	<p>Why did the men stop for the day?</p> <p>Why does Bean smile a sickly smile?</p> <p>Why do the farmers put tents up?</p> <p>Why does Boggis hold a chicken near the hole?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict if the farmers will be able to starve the foxes out.</p>
Explain	<p>Explain how Dahl makes it seem like the foxes have no hope in these chapters.</p>
Retrieve	<p>At what time did Bean switch off his engine?</p> <p>What is the farmers' new plan?</p> <p>Why didn't Mr and Mrs Fox answer the children about when they could eat?</p> <p>How many men are ordered to surround the hill?</p> <p>How did Mr Fox know they were still there?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise the farmers' current plan in less than thirty words.</p>

Chapter 9 and 10

Vocabulary	<p>What word means 'definitely' on Page 34?</p> <p>What does 'wearily' mean?</p> <p>Define 'plump'.</p>
Infer	<p>How many days have the farmers been waiting?</p> <p>Why do you think Mr Fox doesn't tell the children where they are going?</p> <p>Why do you think Mr Fox was cautious about sticking his head through the gap?</p> <p>Why do you think Mr Fox chooses the plumpest chickens?</p> <p>Why aren't the foxes caught in the chicken house?</p>
Predict	<p>At the beginning of Chapter 9, predict Mr Fox's plan.</p> <p>Read to the end of Page 39 and predict where they are.</p> <p>Predict what everyone else will be doing.</p>
Explain	<p>Explain why you think Dahl doesn't tell us Mr Fox's plan.</p>
Retrieve	<p>Why does Mr Fox assume his plan won't work?</p> <p>Why won't Mrs Fox be much help?</p> <p>Where do the foxes dig?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise the events of these two chapters in less than thirty words.</p>

Chapter 11 and 12

Vocabulary	<p>What words show you that Mrs Fox is half asleep?</p> <p>What does 'spluttered' mean? Can you act out spluttering?</p> <p>Find a word on Page 47 that shows that badger is cross with Mr Fox.</p>
Infer	<p>Why was the fox exploding with joy?</p> <p>Why did the foxes laugh every time they thought about the chickens?</p> <p>Why are the badgers starving?</p> <p>Why does Badger think Mr Fox is teasing?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict where the fox's are digging to next.</p>
Explain	<p>Explain how the new characters are introduced.</p>
Retrieve	<p>Why does Mrs Fox think she's dreaming?</p> <p>What does Mrs Fox set about preparing?</p> <p>Who does Mr Fox meet in the tunnel?</p> <p>Where does the small badger go?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise why the badgers are trapped in less than fifteen words.</p>

Chapter 13 and 14

Vocabulary	Why does Mr Fox use 'painful' to describe his tail scenario? What does 'overwhelmed' mean? What synonym for food is used on Page 52?
Infer	Why doesn't Mr Fox want to talk about his tail? Why are the animals overwhelmed? Why doesn't Mr Fox want to take too much? Why did they need push carts?
Predict	Predict what room Mr Fox has been looking for.
Explain	Badger is a good man – explain whether you agree.
Retrieve	Who was a great digger? Why does Mr Fox always know where they are? Whose farm have they now gone to? Why does Bunce get a good price for his ducks? Why do they need carrots? Why does Mr Fox replace the floorboard? Where are they heading next?
Summarise	Summarise the events of these chapters in thirty words.

Chapter 15 and 16

Vocabulary	<p>What does Mr Fox mean by 'saucy'?</p> <p>Find a word on Page 63 that means 'big'.</p> <p>What does 'poaching' mean?</p> <p>What is a souvenir?</p>
Infer	<p>Why can Mr Fox move the brick?</p> <p>Why is Rat so angry?</p> <p>Why is cider good for badgers?</p> <p>Who is the woman getting cider for?</p>
Predict	<p>Read to the end of Chapter 15. Predict what will happen next.</p>
Explain	<p>How does Dahl show tension at the end of Chapter 15?</p>
Retrieve	<p>Who pops out of the wall?</p> <p>What does Mr Fox threaten to do to rat?</p> <p>Why doesn't Mr Fox need turkeys?</p> <p>What is in the cellar?</p> <p>Where do the animals hide?</p> <p>What is the woman carrying?</p>
Summarise	<p>Draw an emotion graph for the foxes during these two chapters.</p>

Chapter 17 and 18

Vocabulary	Define 'impudent'. What word on Page 76 means hungry?
Infer	Why does Mr Fox brick the wall back up? Why does Mr Fox sing a song? Why couldn't they wait to eat?
Predict	At the end of Chapter 17, predict what will happen to the farmers now the animals have decided to live underground forever.
Explain	Is this a happy ending? Explain your answer.
Retrieve	Why does badger believe all rats have bad manners? How many animals were at the feast? What makes everyone laugh at the meal? Why do the animals decide to live underground?
Summarise	Summarise the whole story in less than 100 words.