

THE RAVEN AND THE FOX

Let us do these activities before we read.

1. We know that frogs croak. Did you know that ravens also croak?
2. Which animal is shown to be cunning in stories? Circle the correct answer.
(a) tiger (b) fox (c) bear



Let us read

Mr Raven was perched upon a limb,
And Reynard the Fox looked up at him;
For the Raven held in his great big beak,
A morsel the Fox would go far to seek.
Said the Fox, in admiring tones: "My word!
Sir Raven, you are a handsome bird.
Such feathers! If you would only sing,
The birds of these woods would call you King."



The Raven, who did not see the joke,
Forgot that his voice was just a croak.
He opened his beak, in his foolish pride—
And down fell the morsel the Fox had eyed.

“Ha-ha!” laughed the Fox. “And now you know,
Ignore sweet words that make you glow.
Pride, my friend, is rather unwise;
I’m sure this teaching is quite a surprise.”

JEAN DE LA FONTAINE

Let us discuss

1. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct option.

(a) Stanza 1

- (i) Mr Raven is a _____. (bird/frog)
- (ii) The name of the fox is _____. (Raven/Reynard)
- (iii) Mr Raven had _____ in his beak. (a piece of food/ a bunch of leaves)

(b) Stanza 2

- (i) The Fox calls the Raven a _____ bird. (foolish/good-looking)
- (ii) The Fox asks the Raven to _____. (dance/sing)
- (iii) The Raven and the Fox live in the _____. (trees/woods)

(c) Stanza 3

- (i) The Raven _____ that he croaked. (remembered/forgot)
- (ii) The Raven opened its beak to _____. (eat/sing)
- (iii) The _____ fell down. (food/Raven)

(d) Stanza 4

- (i) The Fox _____ at the Raven. (laughed/looked)
- (ii) It is not _____ to be too proud of oneself. (wise/unwise)
- (iii) The Raven learnt a _____. (lesson/teaching)



2. Read the poem again and match the words in Column A with their meanings in Column B. Check your answers with your teacher and your classmates.

Column A	Column B
1. perched	(a) a small piece of food
2. morsel	(b) looked with interest at something
3. seek	(c) feeling that you are better than others
4. pride	(d) sat on a branch
5. eyed	(e) to look for something
6. limb	(f) a smaller area of forest with similar kind of trees
7. woods	(g) branch of a tree



Let us think and reflect

1. Look at the pictures and number them in the order that they happen in the poem.



2. Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow.

(a) *Sir Raven, you are a handsome bird.*

Such feathers! If you would only sing,

The birds of these woods would call you King.

(i) 'Such feathers' refer to _____ feathers.

- a. shiny and beautiful
- b. black and dull
- c. grey and long
- d. short and unattractive

(ii) Why would the birds of the woods call the Raven 'King'?

(iii) Why does the Fox address the Raven as 'Sir'?

(b) *The Raven, who did not see the joke,*

Forgot that his voice was just a croak.

He opened his beak, in his foolish pride—

(i) Why did the Raven open his beak?

(ii) Complete the following with one word from the given lines.

Fox : clever :: Raven : _____

3. Why does the Raven forget that his voice is just a croak?

4. How does Reynard make the Raven sing?

5. Why does Reynard say that pride is not wise?

6. Give one reason why the teaching is quite a surprise.

7. Imagine someone praises you too much. How would you react?



Let us learn

1. Write the rhyming words from the poem. One has been done for you.

Stanza 1

(a) limb-him

(b) _____

Stanza 2

(a) word-_____

(b) _____

Stanza 3

(a) joke-_____

(b) _____

Stanza 4

(a) know-_____

(b) _____

2. Study the underlined words in the poem.

(a) For the Raven held in his great big beak.

The words 'big' and 'beak' begin with the same /b/ sound.

(b) The song of sweet birds.

Alliteration is a repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words. When two or more words together, begin with the same sound, it is called **alliteration**.

Now, pick another example of alliteration from Stanza 2.

3. Choose the correct opposites from the box given below and complete the table. There are two extra words that you will not need.

wise happy humility flew remembered
notice dim cried silly

Words	Opposites
1. perched	
2. forgot	
3. foolish	
4. pride	
5. laughed	
6. ignore	
7. glow	

Use any four words from the table given above to make sentences of your own.





Let us listen

You will listen to what the crow did after he lost his food. As you listen, mark the given statements as True or False. (refer to page 37 for transcript)

- (a) The crow was unhappy that he lost his food.
- (b) The crow thought that his lovely feathers made him smart.
- (c) The crow wanted to tell his friends not to be proud.



Let us speak

Narrate the poem in the form of a story. Give a different ending to the story. You may begin like this:

This is a story about a clever fox named Reynard and Mr Raven. One day...



Let us write

Now, write the story you narrated in the form of a conversation.

(Remember to write only the actions for the Raven as he has food in his mouth and does not speak.)

You may begin like this.

Reynard: Good morning, Mr Raven! You seem to be awake so early!

(Mr Raven just nods his head)

Reynard: Oh, Mr Raven, you look ...

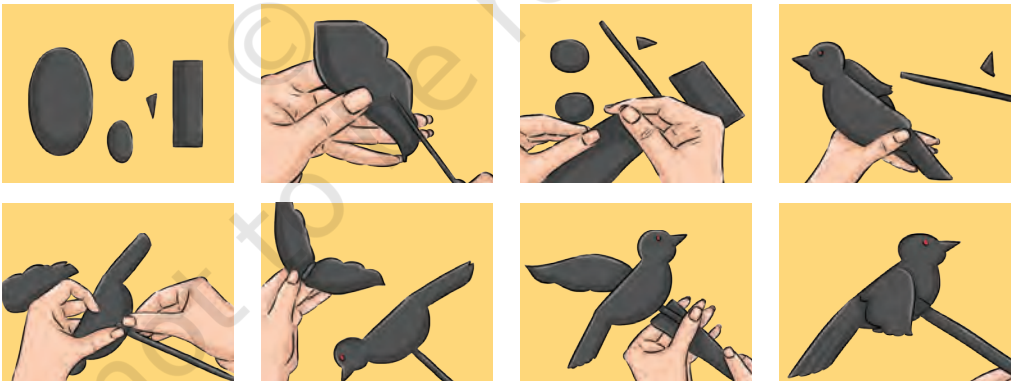
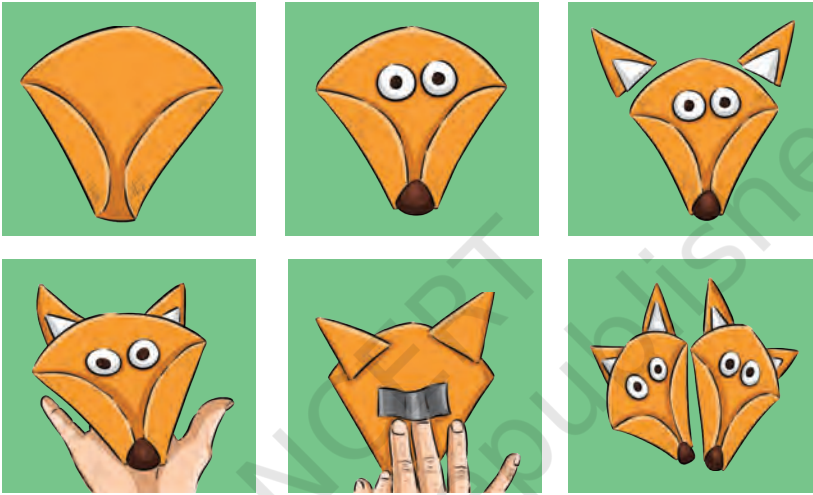




Let us explore

Origami is an art of folding objects out of paper to create both two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects.

Let us make stick puppets and enact the poem. You may take the help of the pictures given below.



Note: You may use the puppets while narrating the story.

