

What to do today

IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.

1. Listen to the reading of *Fox* by Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1AQgyhAvFQ>

2. Grammar: nouns phrases

- Together, read the information on *Fox's Noun Phrases*.
- Read *Magpie's Journey Home*. Use one colour to highlight the nouns. Use another colour to highlight the adjectives.

3. Writing: Describe an animal using nouns and adjectives

- Take a normal piece of paper or follow the instructions for *Making Tea Paper* to make paper that looks like a page in *Fox*.
- On the paper, draw an animal you like.
- On *My Animal*, describe your animal in full sentences using nouns and adjectives. Hang your writing and picture up in your bedroom.

Try these Fun-Time Extras:

- Dog and Magpie are friends in the book and are loyal to each other. Who are your friends? On *My Friends*, draw two or three of your good friends and explain what each of them is like.
- On *Foxes in Stories*, list the names of any books, stories, rhymes and poems you know with foxes in them. Say what the foxes in these are often like.
- Read the short passage on *Dog's Spellings*. There are 10 spelling mistakes. Can you spot them all? Correctly rewrite each of the misspelt words on the lines underneath the passage.
- *Fox* is set in Australia. Visit <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/animals-in-australia.html> and discover about other Australian animals NOT mentioned in the story!

Fox's Noun Phrases



Nouns

A **noun** names a **person, place, idea, thing** or **feeling**.



a **bird**

the **dog**

a **cave**

their **surprise**

In front of a **noun**, we often have

a an the this that his her their my your

Adjectives

An **adjective** is a describing word.
It tells you more about a **noun**.

the **miserable** magpie

a **kind** dog

that **sly** fox

their **big** surprise



The **cave** was **dark**.

Adjectives sometimes come next to 'their' **nouns**...
but sometimes they do not.

Noun Phrases

A **noun phrase** adds extra detail to the **noun**.



The **hungry, thirsty** dog
A **sad** and **lonely** bird
this quite **amazing** forest
that truly **cunning** fox

It can be made by adding an adjective or two.



Magpie's Journey Home



Slowly, jiggety-hop, the hot, tired Magpie began her long journey home.

The bright sun was beaming down on the sandy desert and poor Magpie felt tired before she had even begun! Her legs ached from all her jiggety-hopping and her mouth was dry and sore. However, a few more hops brought her to the banks of a cool dark stream, flowing between smooth rocks and leafy green bushes. Jumping up onto a stone at the water's edge, Magpie took a long drink of the sparkling water and felt much better. 'I wonder what Dog is doing now?' she thought to herself before carrying on.

Leaving the river behind, Magpie entered a small wood, in which grew all sorts of beautiful trees and bushes. There were tall gum trees and short pine trees, wide oak trees and slender yellow box trees. On many of the branches sat birds with bright feathers, who called cheery greetings to Magpie as she passed.

Beyond the wood and its friendly birds lay a rocky valley. Magpie had to scramble over all sorts of tumbled stones and fallen branches to reach the other side but she pushed on, determined to get back to Dog.

Finally, just as she was beginning to run out of energy, Magpie heard a loud bark quite nearby. Looking up she saw Dog, all sandy brown in the sunshine, standing at the edge of the valley.

'This way, Magpie – I'm up here!' called Dog.

And with one final jiggety-hop, Magpie was home, and reunited with her kind friend.

Making Tea Paper



1. Heat the oven to approximately 160°.
2. Put two tea bags in a large (bigger than A4) baking tray and add hot water so that you have a couple of centimetres depth.
3. Allow the tea mixture to infuse, darken and cool a little.
4. Lay a sheet of white A4 paper in the tea and leave to soak for a few minutes.
5. Transfer the wet sheet to another baking tray and place in the oven to dry through.



6. Check the paper occasionally, turning if need be to keep the sheet flat as it dries.
7. When dry, tear at the paper's edge to make it look older. You can also singe the edges with a flame.
8. Stick smaller bits of paper down on a larger piece and draw an animal in the way that Ron Brooks does, using charcoal, pencils and paints.

My Animal



A large, empty rectangular area with horizontal lines, designed for writing. The area is framed by a decorative border of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of blue, yellow, red, and grey.

My Friends



Foxes in Stories

These are the stories I know that have foxes in them:

This is what foxes in stories are often like



Dog's Spellings

Magpie's wing was damaged by the forest fire. She hid in a cave and was very sad. When she was better she sat on Dog's back and the animals raced along together as if they were flying. Fox came to join the animals in the springtime as he was lonely. But Dog did not trust him because he was sly. When Magpie went off with Fox, Dog was terribly upset. It looked as if Magpie was not coming back at all! However, Fox left Magpie in the desert and she began the long journey back to Dog, her friend.
