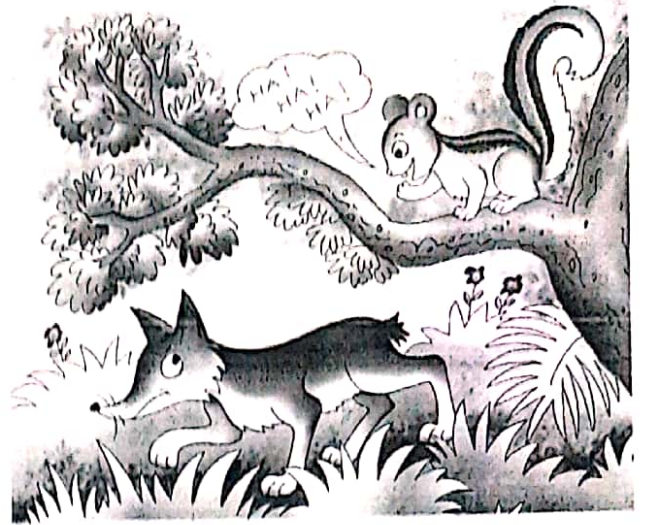


The Fox's Tail

A fox was wandering in a jungle in search of food. Then suddenly his tail got caught in a trap. He tried hard to get away, but could not. He even tried to pull his tail to get it free but was unsuccessful. He thought, "If I give one tug, I think, I shall be able to get it free." So with all his strength he gave one tug at his tail. What happened! He was no doubt free, but without a tail! His tail had got stuck in the trap.



When the fox looked at his tail stuck in the trap, he was horrified. "Oh! My God!, I have lost my tail! I am looking so different. A fox without a tail looks awful." He was very much disturbed about his lost tail.

When the fox moved about in the jungle, all the other animals looked at him with amazement. A squirrel from a branch of a tree saw the fox and laughed. "Ha! Ha! A fox without a tail." All the other animals too began to laugh at the fox. The fox hated being laughed at. He began to think of a plan as how to make the other animals stop laughing at him.

One day, he thought of an idea. "If all the other foxes agree to cut off their tails, no one will laugh at me. No one will even notice that I am without a tail."

The same evening the tailless fox called for a meeting of all the foxes. He said, "Dear friends, we all have tails, but

I have been through a lot of experience, and I have decided not to have a tail. The tail is of no use to us. They are only ugly things stuck behind our backs. They are in no way helpful to us. In fact they are a burden to us. I have just got rid of my tail. Oh! How free and happy I feel without a tail. Why don't all of you too get rid of your tails? You will be much happier without your tails."

All the foxes in the meeting heard the speech of the tailless fox and nodded their heads in agreement. "Yes, you are right, we all can get rid of our tails. Then we shall be happy and free too!"

But there was an old and wise fox sitting among them. He did not nod his head in agreement. Instead, he said to the fox without a tail, "Well, it sounds very nice. I am glad you are so happy and free without a tail. But I don't think you would want us to give up

our tails if you still had your tail.”

All the other foxes looked at the fox without the tail when they heard the old fox. They realized his cunning plan. The next

moment they chased the tailless fox out of the jungle.

All the other foxes then thanked the old fox for his timely thought and vision.

Exercises :

I. Answer the following questions :

Q.1 Where did the fox's tail get caught?

Ans. _____

Q.2 What happened when the fox gave a tug to his tail?

Ans. _____

Q.3 How did the other animals look at the tailless fox?

Ans. _____

Q.4 What idea did the fox think of to stop the other animals from laughing at him?

Ans. _____

Q.5 What did the tailless fox say in the speech?

Ans. _____

Q.6 Who among the foxes did not nod his head in agreement?

Ans. _____

Q.7 What did the old and wise fox say?

Ans. _____

Q.8 What did the other foxes realise when they heard the old and wise fox?

Ans. _____

Q.9 Why did they thank the old and wise fox?

Ans. _____

II. Tick (✓) the right answer :

1. When the fox looked at his tail stuck in the trap he was...
(happy / angry / horrified)
2. The fox called for...
(a meeting / an announcement / a fun fair)
3. When all the foxes in the meeting heard the speech they...
(bit him / chased him out of the forest / punished him)

III. Find a word from the story which means the same :

1. a device to catch animals : _____
2. to pull with great effort : _____
3. the feeling of fear : _____
4. to look with wonder : _____
5. to see : _____
6. useful : _____