

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

The Fox and the Crow

One of Aesop's Fables

One bright, sunny morning Fox trotted through the forest looking for his breakfast. His stomach grumbled as he darted under bushes and around trees, but he could not find anything to eat.

“I will surely go hungry today,” Fox sighed. He lay down to mope about his bad luck.

After a while, Fox got up and kept walking through the forest. He looked under each bush. He looked around each tree. He still could not find anything to eat.

A flapping sound caught Fox's attention. He stopped and looked up. Crow sat on the lowest branch of a tree. Now, Fox had seen a lot of crows. It was nothing new. However, this crow had a large piece of cheese in her mouth.

“Ah-ha!” Fox thought. “There is something I can eat for breakfast.”



Crow watched Fox circle the tree. She backed up toward the tree trunk.

“Good morning, Miss Crow,” Fox called.

Crow did not answer. She kept her beak locked on the piece of cheese.

“Oh, what a beautiful bird you are,” Fox said. “Your feathers shine almost blue in the sunlight.”

Crow cocked her head to the side and fluffed her feathers. She did not answer.

“Oh, what a wonderful beak you have,” Fox said. “What big wings. I bet you have a lovely singing voice. I wish I could hear just one song. I would call you “Queen of All Birds” if you would sing for me.”

Fox’s flattering words made Crow forget to be suspicious. She also forgot about the cheese in her beak. She very much wanted to be called the Queen of all Birds.

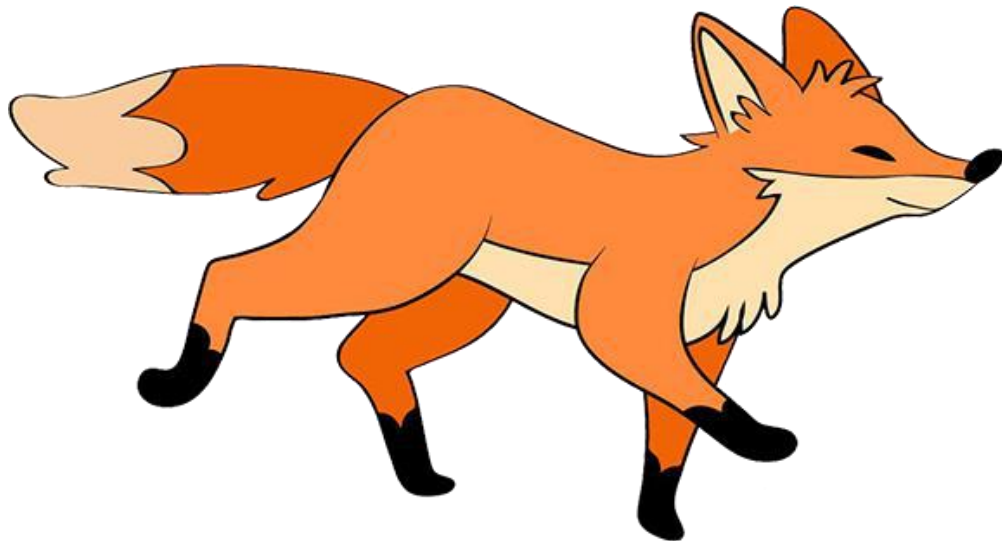
“Caw!” Crow sang.



The cheese fell from her beak and tumbled down into Fox's mouth. He gobbled it up and smiled.

"Thank you, Miss Crow," he said. "You do have a voice, but it is cracked." Fox looked up and smiled again. "You are too easily fooled by flattering words."

Crow watched Fox trot away. She closed her eyes and sighed. She would have to find something else for breakfast.



Questions:

1. What was Fox looking for in the forest?
 - a. Fox was on an Easter egg hunt.
 - b. Fox was looking for his best friend.
 - c. Fox was looking for something to eat for breakfast.
 - d. Fox was looking for wood for a fire.

2. What was the weather like when Fox went looking for breakfast?
 - a. It was snowing.
 - b. It was raining.
 - c. It was windy.
 - d. It was sunny.

3. How did Fox get Crow to drop the cheese?
 - a. Fox shook the tree.
 - b. Fox flattered Crow.
 - c. Fox tossed Crow a ball.
 - d. Fox sent a monkey to steal it.

4. What does the word flattery mean?
- a. Flattery is saying nice things you do not mean so someone else will do what you want.
 - b. Flattery is mashing something until it is very squished.
 - c. Flattery is lying on your belly.
 - d. Flattery is rolling out a pie crust.

5. What lesson should Crow learn from this?

Answers:

1. What was Fox looking for in the forest?
c. Fox was looking for something to eat for breakfast.
2. What was the weather like when Fox went looking for breakfast?
d. It was sunny.
3. How did Fox get Crow to drop the cheese?
b. Fox flattered Crow.
4. What does the word flattery mean?
a. Flattery is saying nice things you do not mean so someone else will do what you want.
5. What lesson should Crow learn from this?
Answers will vary.