

READ CHAPTER 1

FOX FACTS

- ! Foxes are generally nocturnal (they move around at night). However, you sometimes see them by day, especially in winter.
- ! In January or February, a litter of 4 or 5 cubs are born in a den or 'earth' underground. These earths are often rabbit burrows or badger sets that the fox has taken over.
- ! The cubs are blind and helpless at birth. They will not leave the den for at least three weeks.
- ! A fox's tail is called a brush.



☺ Have you ever seen a fox? Do you know anything about them? Write about it here:

☺ SPECIAL DAYS

The story opens on Christmas Eve. Can you work out the names of these other special days in the year? and their dates? Also, write a sentence on each.

Date

N _ _ Y _ _ 'S DAY

S _ _ T P _ _ _ 'S DAY

H _ _ W _ N

S _ _ _ V _ _ _ _ 'S DAY

☺ CLONOWEN ⇐ A Bird's Eye View

"...A crow swooped over the rooftops of Clonowen village. She flew over the village square, where laughing children played, across the river and the white fields towards the woods on a hill in the distance."

-- Draw a picture of the scene and colour it in --



READ CHAPTER 2

☹️ THE MACLUG FILE:

Write a report on the two brothers



Names: 1 _____ 2 _____

What do they look like? _____

Where do they live? _____

What work do they do? _____

What kind of people are they? Do you like them? _____

☺️ WORDSEARCH

These 14 words are hidden in the grid. Can you find them?

FOX VIXEN EARTH MISTY ASH SLICER CLONOWEN
SMUDGE RAPTOR CROW KENNEL RABBIT CHICKEN LAMB

A	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	S	L	T	R	V	X
P	E	D	R	F	C	M	K	C	D	L	P	Q	R
B	C	A	E	S	L	I	C	E	R	H	J	K	R
V	L	B	D	U	X	S	D	M	N	P	V	Q	Z
X	A	Y	V	B	E	T	J	K	C	N	O	L	D
S	M	U	D	G	E	Y	V	E	J	K	E	R	C
B	B	H	K	P	N	O	C	F	W	X	F	L	L
E	J	Y	C	B	D	A	L	O	N	M	P	R	O
Q	W	Z	A	E	B	V	I	X	E	N	B	C	N
T	K	V	L	R	O	M	P	T	N	J	D	U	O
U	E	J	W	R	A	B	B	I	T	U	G	K	W
A	B	A	S	H	D	P	M	T	G	V	G	W	E
L	O	M	R	K	G	S	T	C	B	A	A	R	N
D	U	M	L	T	P	S	J	O	K	E	F	K	E
U	D	C	J	L	H	O	M	C	R	O	W	A	Z



☺️ PREDICTIONS

What do you think will happen next in the story?



READ CHAPTERS 3 & 4

MORE FOX FACTS

- ! Foxes eat whatever they can find. Rabbit is a favourite food, when available. Mice and rats are also on the menu. Other sources of food are earthworms, insects, fruit and berries.
- ! In cities and towns, dustbins are often raided by hungry foxes.
- ! A female fox is called a vixen. The male is known as the dog fox.



☺ *SUMMARY* – Write what has happened in the story so far.

☺ *A CHRISTMAS SCENE*

"In the middle of the square stood a giant Christmas tree. Its red, blue and green fairy lights flickered... Close to the tree was a big snowman, which the children had made. Its hat had fallen off..."

Draw the picture of this scene and colour it in

A large empty rectangular box for drawing and coloring the Christmas scene.

READ CHAPTERS 5 & 6

☺ *THINK IT OUT* – Do you think Mother Fox will be cross because her cubs left the woods? Why? Write what you think she will say to them when they come home.

☺ *SAFETY RULES FOR FOXES* – Pretend you are Mother Fox or Father Fox. Write down the rules of safety you would like your cubs to follow at all times.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

☺ *CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU* – Think of all the lovely food you'd love to have on Christmas Day and write out a menu. Then design and colour it.

Starters:

Main Course:

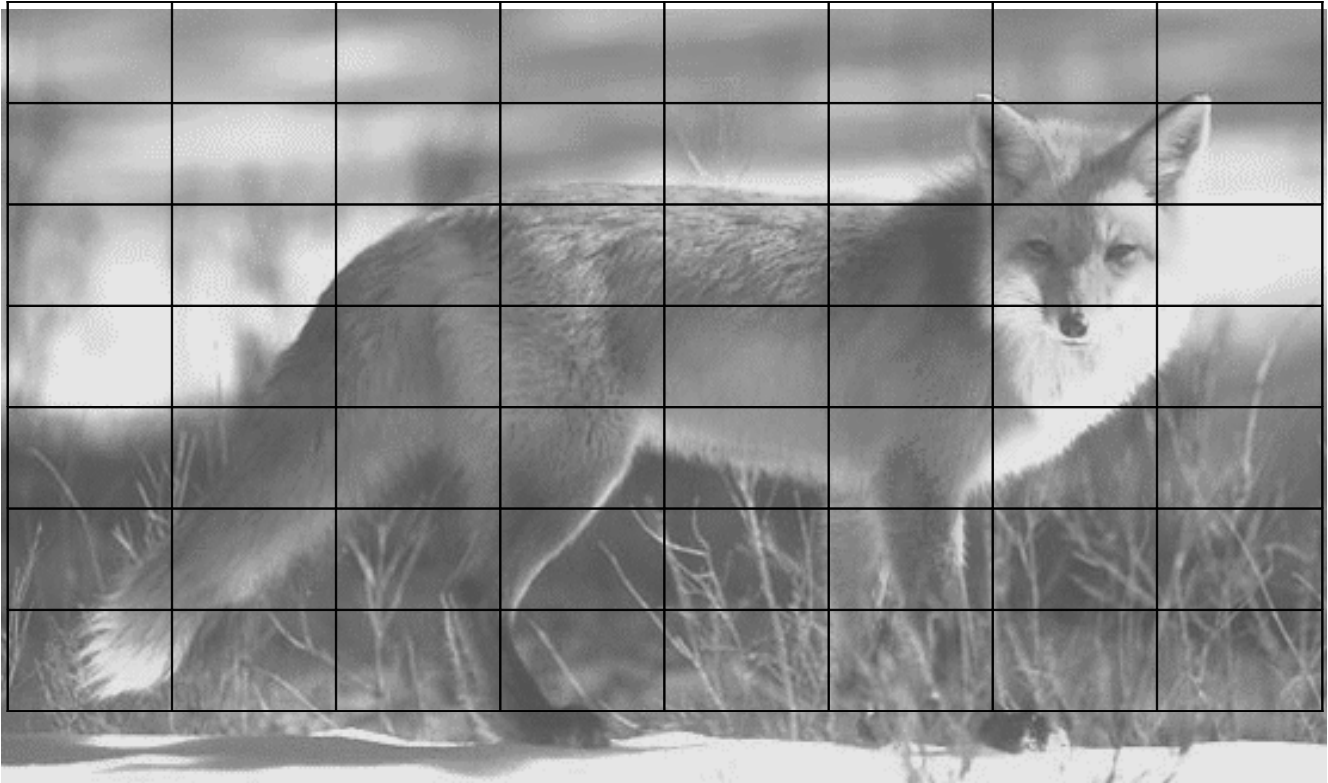
Dessert:

Drinks:



READ CHAPTERS 7 & 8

☺ Sketch a fox using the guideline grid below:



☺ *THE MACLUG FILE*: what more have you learned about the two brothers in chapter 8?

READ CHAPTERS 9 & 10

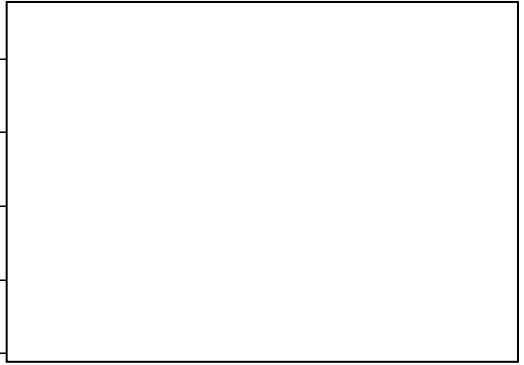
FOXHUNTING

- ! Foxhunting is the pursuit of a fox across country on horseback with the aid of a pack of foxhounds.
- ! Foxhunting dates from around 1700. It began because farmers wanted to reduce the numbers of foxes that threatened their chickens and hens. But within 200 years it had simply become a 'sport' of the gentry.
- ! A foxhound is a small hound (up to 60 cms tall) with a very good sense of smell. It is black, tan and white in colour. Foxhounds have been specially bred to hunt foxes.



☺ *SNITCH'S DAY OUT*: Pretend you are Snitch, Polly MacLug's best foxhound. Write about how you've so far spent the day. Then draw a picture of you, the Number 1 foxhound, in the box below!





☺ *CLASS DISCUSSION:*

Is foxhunting right or wrong?

What do you think? Can you think of three reasons to support your view?

Write them here and then discuss them in class.

1 _____

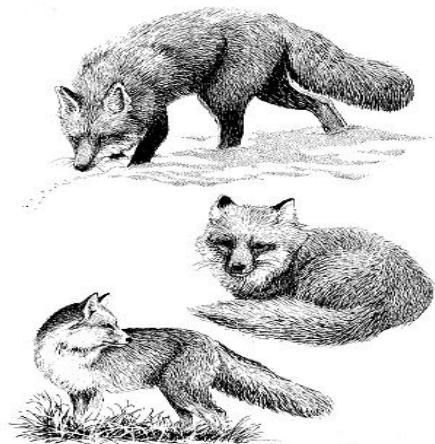
2 _____

3 _____

READ CHAPTERS 11 & 12

MORE FOX FACTS

- ! The vixen is somewhat smaller than the dog fox, and her face is narrower.
- ! A grown fox weighs around 6 or 7 kilograms.
- ! The head and back of a grown fox measures around 65 centimetres. The tail or brush measures 40 centimetres or so.
- ! A fox's prints are narrower than a dog's, with finer claw marks.



☺ *DESCRIBE*

Words which describe nouns are called *adjectives*. For example, the noun 'house' could be described by the adjectives 'big', 'small', 'old', 'new', 'white', and so on. Think up the adjectives which you think best describe the following nouns:



Foxes _____

Foxhounds _____

Slicer _____

Smudge _____

Polly _____

Katie _____

☺ *FOX TRICKS*

Foxes are clever, crafty animals. When chased by foxhounds, they are well known for the many cunning tricks they play on their pursuers. Write about a trick that one fox used to save its life...

READ CHAPTERS 13 & 14

☺ *READER'S REPORT* – Write a report on the story so far. Do you think it's a good story? What's your favourite part? What do you like about the foxes?

☺ *WRITE A POEM*

An 'Acrostic' Poem is where we write the title of the poem vertically and each letter gives us the first letter of each line. For example, here's a poem : DOGS



*Digging for bones
Or chasing the cat
Growling and barking
Stretched out on the mat*

Write your own Acrostic poem on the MACLUGS:

M _____
A _____
C _____
L _____
U _____
G _____
S _____

READ CHAPTERS 15 & 16

YET MORE FOX FACTS

- ! Foxes usually live and hunt on their own, except during the breeding season.
- ! Each fox marks out and controls a territory of around one square kilometre or more.
- ! Foxes have at least 28 different calls or barks.



☺ *TELLING THE TRUTH*

We are told that it is always right to tell the truth. But in chapter 15 we see that Katie tells Slicer a lie and sends him in the wrong direction. Was she right to tell that lie? or wrong? Give your reason.



☺ *FAVOURITE ANIMAL STORIES*

List your top 4 favourite animal stories whether in books or in the movies.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

Which of the above four is your favourite? and why?

READ CHAPTERS 17 & 18

☺ *JODY'S STORY*

Pretend you are Jody Eaton.

Write down what you told your friends about what happened.



☺ *WORDSEARCH*

These 14 words are hidden below. Can you find them?

CHRISTMAS JINGLE-BELLS NELLY TURKEY MACLUG HOUNDS
HUNT EATON SNITCH GOLDEN-BOAT POLLY SNOWMAN PIES CAKES



D P E S Q V M H O U N D S U
 A P B D G I K N Q T W Z O R
 G O L D E N B O A T P D U M
 B L O S L T T R V Z P Z H J
 A L A L S T X D W R U I L D
 D Y X O N P H J K X Y N E J
 S Q O J I N G L E B E L L S
 A N L J T R K Q P A H E T C
 I G O K C A K E S K T H W T
 N J E W H D S A Q W L O S U
 E H D W M C S S H S K E N R
 L G B C V A L S U O D W Q K
 L M N B V C N K N K W R E E
 Y B Z C H R I S T M A S T Y
 C M A C L U G W A K K E C V



☺ *PREDICTIONS:*

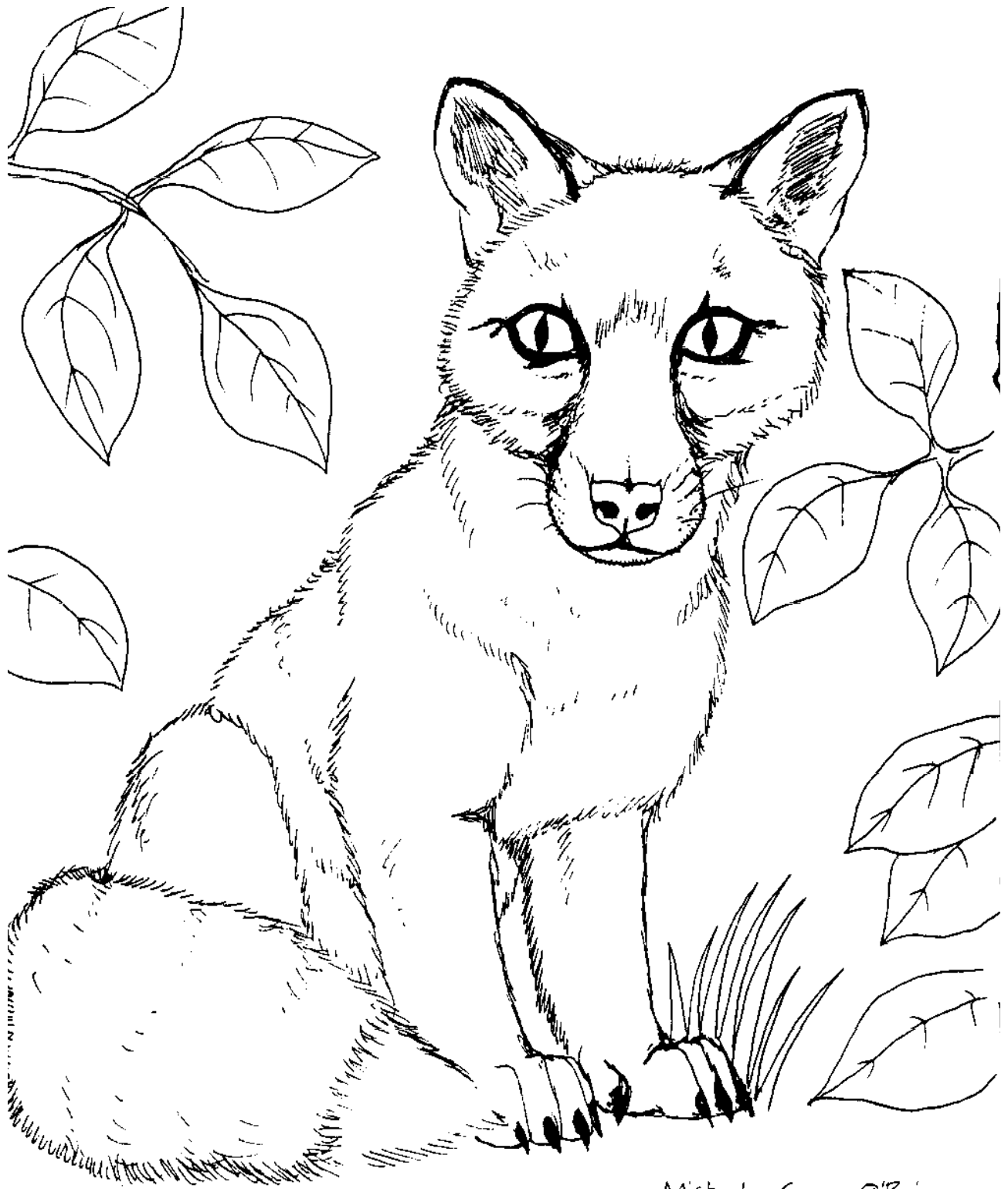
What do you think will happen next in the story?

FOX COLOURING

A fox has reddish-brown fur with white or grey underparts. Its bushy tail (or brush) is usually white-tipped. Its feet are a dark grey or black colour.

Colour in this picture using paints or crayons or markers or colouring pencils - or a combination of these.

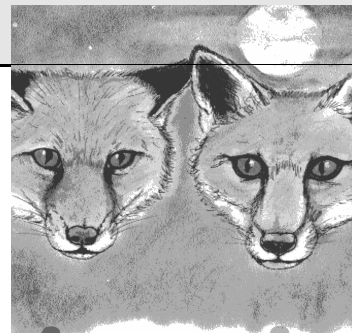




Misty by Conor O'Brien

☺ BOOK REVIEW

Title of Book _____
Author _____
Illustrator _____



brush
A TALE OF TWO FOXES

PIERCE FEIRITEAR
Illustrated by Conor O'Brien



Publisher _____

Number of Pages _____

Number of Illustrations _____

The Plot (the main story idea)

Main Characters: _____

My favourite character is _____

I liked this character because:

Marks out of 10 for this story: _____

Signed: _____ (Reviewer's name)

