

Mr Fox Has a Plan

Chapter 9 · Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl — Student Handout (B1)

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

1 · Before You Read

Discuss these questions with a partner before you read the chapter:

1. What do you know about foxes? Are they clever animals or sneaky animals? Why?

2. Imagine you are trapped with no food or water for 3 days. What would you do?

3. Look at the chapter title: "Mr Fox Has a Plan." What kind of plan do you think he has?

2 · Vocabulary Preview (8 Key Words)

Read each word, learn the definition, and study the example sentence.

waiting-game

/ˈweɪtɪŋ geɪm/

[noun] a situation where two sides wait and see who gives up first.

e.g. The waiting-game went on for three days.

starving

/ˈstɑːvɪŋ/

[adjective] suffering or dying from lack of food.

e.g. The foxes were slowly starving to death.

sip

/sɪp/

[noun] a very small amount of drink.

e.g. If only we could have a tiny sip of water.

make a dash for it

/meɪk ə dæʃ fər ɪt/

[idiom] to run quickly toward something, taking a risk.

e.g. Couldn't we make a dash for it, Dad?

desperately*/ˈdɛspərətli/*

[adverb] in a way that shows you will do anything because you have no choice.

e.g. He was trying desperately to think of a way out.

spark of excitement*/spɑːk əv ɪkˈsaɪtmənt/*

[phrase] a small sudden feeling of being thrilled.

e.g. There was a little spark of excitement dancing in his eyes.

undefeated*/ˌʌndɪˈfiːtɪd/*

[adjective] not beaten; still strong despite problems.

e.g. They are starving, but they are still undefeated.

suffer*/ˈsʌfə/*

[verb] to feel pain or hardship.

e.g. Mrs Fox was suffering more than any of them.

□□ Practice

Try it! Choose **three** words from the list above and write your own sentence for each.

3 • Story Summary

The chapter begins after **three days and three nights** of waiting. The three farmers (**Boggis**, **Bunce**, and **Bean**) have surrounded the foxes' tunnel with guns. They are sure the foxes must soon come out to find food and water.

Inside the tunnel, the **Fox family** is slowly starving. The four **Small Foxes** ask their father for help — even a tiny sip of water would be enough. They want to *make a dash for it*, but **Mrs Fox** refuses. She says the guns outside are too dangerous and she would rather they stay safely underground.

Mr Fox has been silent for a long time, thinking *desperately* for a way out. Suddenly he stands up — there is a **spark of excitement** in his eyes. He has an idea! But he sighs and says it will not work because it means more digging, and the family is too weak from hunger.

The Small Foxes jump up and insist they can do it. Mr Fox looks at his brave children and smiles. They are starving but still **undefeated**. Mrs Fox, who is the weakest, stays behind. Mr Fox and the four cubs begin their plan — **to dig a new tunnel**.

□ Key Moment

"They are starving to death and they haven't had a drink for three days, but they are still undefeated. I must not let them down." — Mr Fox (thinking about his cubs)

4 • Meet the Characters

Character	Who they are	Key trait
Mr Fox	The clever father of the family	Brave, thoughtful
Mrs Fox	The protective mother; very weak	Caring, careful
Small Foxes (×4)	Four brave fox cubs	Hopeful, energetic
Boggis	Farmer waiting outside with a gun	Patient, determined
Bean	Another farmer; sure the foxes will give up	Confident

5 • Comprehension Questions

Answer in **full sentences**. Use evidence from the story.

Q1. How long had the farmers been waiting outside the foxes' tunnel?

Hint: Look for a number of days AND nights.

Q2. Why did Mrs Fox refuse to let the Small Foxes go outside?

Hint: Answer with: "Because..."

Q3. What was Mr Fox doing before he came up with his idea?

Hint: Look at his body language — eyes, motion.

Q4. Why did Mr Fox first think his idea would NOT work?

Hint: What does the plan need? What is the family's problem?

Q5. How did the Small Foxes show they were still undefeated?

Hint: Find a quote that shows energy and courage.

6 • Quiz Time! (5 Questions)

Circle the correct answer: A, B, C, or D.

Q1. How long did the waiting-game last?

- A. 1 day and 1 night
- B. 2 days and 2 nights
- C. 3 days and 3 nights
- D. 4 days and 4 nights

Q2. Who asked, "How long can a fox go without food or water?"

- A. Mr Fox
- B. Mrs Fox
- C. Boggis
- D. Bean

Q3. Mrs Fox said she would rather the Small Foxes _____.

- A. make a dash for it
- B. stay down and die in peace
- C. fight the farmers
- D. drink rainwater

Q4. What word best describes Mr Fox's expression when he had the idea?

- A. A spark of excitement
- B. A look of fear
- C. A loud laugh
- D. A long sigh

Q5. Why does Mr Fox tell Mrs Fox to stay where she is?

- A. Because she is too noisy
- B. Because she is too weak to help
- C. Because she is angry
- D. Because she doesn't want to dig

7 • Homework — Choose ONE Task

Pick **one** of the following tasks. Bring it to the next class.

Option	Task	Tips
1	Write a 100-word diary entry from Mr Fox's point of view, starting "Day 3 in the tunnel. Today I..."	Use past tense and at least 3 vocab words.
2	Draw a 4-panel comic of this chapter: (3 days waiting → idea → cubs cheer → start digging). Label each panel in English.	Use color. Speech bubbles welcome.

3

Find 3 NEW English words from this chapter NOT on Slide 3. Write the definition and use the word in a sentence for each.

□ **Speaking Task**

Speaking Task (in class): In pairs, role-play the moment Mr Fox tells his family the plan. One student is Mr Fox, one is a Small Fox. Use at least 3 vocabulary words from Section 2.

Next lesson: **Chapter 10 — "The Great Feast"** — *will the foxes reach the farmers' storehouses?*
See you next time!