

Enjoy Reading English Tales

CHANTICLEER AND THE FOX

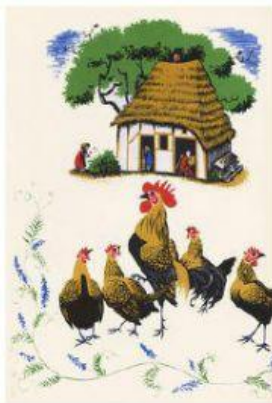
Read the short story. Then choose the correct answers.



It is the story of a poor widow who lives in a little house in a valley. She has two daughters and only a small income, but she likes to save money. She cares for three pigs, three cows, and her favorite sheep called Molly.



This poor widow has a rooster called Chanticleer in her yard. His comb is redder than the finest coral. His voice is merrier than the merry organ that plays in the church on Sundays.



Also, there are seven hens. The fairest hen is Partelote. She is sophisticated and discreet. Chanticleer loves her with his whole heart as Adam loved Eve. They often sing together in the yard.

This morning Chanticleer is sitting on the perch among his seven wives, and he begins to groan as if he is in a trouble by some bad dream. Partelote sits beside him and cries, "Sweet heart, what troubles you?"

The cock replies, "Madame, do not be anxious; it is only a terrible dream that I am frightened even to remember it. I dreamed that I was walking up and down the yard, when I saw a creature like a dog, and it tried to kill me in the yard".

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Then dame Partelote says, *"Pluck up your courage if you would keep my love, for no woman can admire a coward. Dreams are nothing! Dreams often come from overeating and sometimes when one has too much gas in your stomach. Pay no attention to dreams"*.

OK! says Chanticleer. Now my dearly *"I forget all about my fears; I am full of happiness that I do not care about any dreams or visions."*

The early morning passes and it is at nine o'clock. The beautiful Partelote is bathing in the clean, warm sand with her sisters.

Chanticleer is singing and hunting a beautiful butterfly; but suddenly, there he sees a fox among the cabbages.



His heart is cold, and the beautiful music of his crowing dies in his throat, "Cok! cok!, in the greatest fear, the fox speaks so gently and courteously.

"Gentle sir," says the fox, *"I am not even spying on you. I want to hear the music; your sweet voice"*.

"Sir Chanticleer, would you sing to me once more, and let me imagine that I am flying high in the clouds" says the Fox.



Of course, the innocent rooster as a fool cannot refuse. So, he stays high upon his toes stretches out his neck, closes his eyes, and begins to crow. Then the false fox catches the singer by the throat and runs toward the woods.

The poor widow and her two daughters hear the cry of the chickens, run after the fox toward the woods. The women cry, "Stop, stop! a fox, a fox", a dog called *Coll* runs and runs fast; the cow and the calf run; and even the pigs run to rescue Chanticleer blaspheming to the fox.

Chanticleer without breath speaks to the fox, and encourages him to curse his hunters. The fox agrees. But when he opens his mouth to blaspheme, the cock escapes and flies high up into a tree.

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The fox says in a humble voice, *"My dear Chanticleer, I am heartily ashamed of myself; and I beg your pardon"*.

"No, Sir Russel fox", replied the cock, "You will not get me to sing and shut up my eyes again, for no one will ever close his eyes when he must keep them open".

"Not", replied the fox, "bad luck to him who talks when he has to keep in silence".

READING ACTIVITIES

Vocabulary

1. Match each word with a sentence.

- a) a bar on which birds sit.
- b) a woman whose husband has died.
- c) the money received for work.
- d) an adult male chicken.
- e) a deep sound made to show pain.

- Widow:
- Income:
- Rooster:
- Perch:
- Groan

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Close reading

1. Read the text and choose *true* or *false*.

- a) The widow likes to work and have animals. **True / False**
- b) Chanticleer spends the day singing and fighting with foxes. **True / False**
- c) Partelote is beautiful and lovely. **True / False**
- d) The fox is always very hungry. **True / False**
- e) Molly is white and hunts hens. **True / False**

2. Match the sentences.

- a) Chanticleer believes on Chanticleer to be a brave rooster.
- b) Partelote encourages enemy in the cabbages.
- c) Chanticleer finds his the prophesy of dreams.

3. Choose the correct sentences.

- The fox's strategy to catch Chanticleer is flattery.
- Russel, the fox, is very gentle.
- Chanticleer loves cabbages.
- Everybody in the farm loves Chanticleer.

4. Answer the questions

a) What is the correct lesson from the tale?

- save money is the road!
- never to trust a flatterer!
- be honest and beautiful!

b) What is the final message from the tale?

- vain is the best part of a man!
- adulation is the way to get something!
- think twice before speaking!