

This is an old Native American story about a man called Heron Feather and the time he met a fox.

Heron Feather is a Native American warrior. Warriors were sometimes known as 'braves'.

The Fox and the Boastful Brave

One fine day, a hungry fox was walking down the road. His tummy was rumbling so loudly that he almost didn't hear the sound of someone coming. Just in time, he heard someone singing. Fox dashed off the path and hid behind a bush.

Over the top of the hill, he saw a tall feather. Fox crouched down and prepared to pounce on the bird. Imagine his surprise when he saw that the 'bird' was riding a horse! The feather was stuck in the headdress of a handsome young man who was riding along the path, singing as he went, "No one is handsomer than Heron Feather. No one is a better fisherman than Heron Feather. And I should know, for I am he."



Fox didn't care if the man was handsome, but he pricked up his ears at the word 'fisherman', for where there are fishermen, there are fish. And a tasty fish would just suit Fox. His nose twitched. A delightful fishy smell was coming out of the man's leather bag.

Heron Feather continued his boastful song. He was on his way to ask a young woman called Swaying Reed to marry him, and he was making himself feel braver by singing his own praises.

Fox bounded ahead of the horse and lay down on the path.

"No one is stronger than... what's this? A fox? When Swaying Reed's mother sees this, she will know what a great hunter I am."

And he picked Fox up, flung him into his bag of fish and laced it shut again. Heron Feather remounted and began a new song.

"No one is a greater hunter than Heron Feather..."

Inside the bag, surrounded by lovely smelly fish, Fox's mouth was watering. He waited a few minutes, then bit a big hole in the side of the bag. One by one, all the fish fell out, followed last of all by Fox. Heron Feather was singing too loudly to notice.



Fox made his way slowly along the path, stopping to eat each fish as he went. His tummy was fuller than it had been for days.

Meanwhile, Heron Feather had arrived at Swaying Reed's house. He stopped his horse outside and sang his song about how clever and handsome he was, what a great hunter and what a great fisherman he was. (In fact, he hadn't caught those fish at all; he had traded his mother's shoes for them.)

Heron Feather reached for his bag of fish to show Swaying Reed and her mother what a good husband he would be. When he saw it was empty, with a large hole in it, he stopped in mid-song.

He sang no more, but turned his horse and rode away.

Safe in his den, Fox was content. "It is one thing to catch a fox," he thought, "but quite another to keep it."



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These questions are about *The Fox and the Boastful Brave*

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- 1 *Just in time, he heard someone singing. Fox dashed off the path and hid behind a bush.*

Find and copy one word that shows that Fox moved quickly.

- 2 What did Fox think was coming over the hill?

Tick **one**.

a horse	<input type="checkbox"/>	a man	<input type="checkbox"/>
a bird	<input type="checkbox"/>	a fish	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 3 Explain why Fox became interested in Heron Feather when he heard his song.

- 4 What was Heron Feather on his way to do?

5 **How** did Fox trick Heron Feather into picking him up?

Tick **one**.

He prepared to pounce.

☐

He lay on the path.

☐

He bounded ahead.

☐

He hid in a bush.

☐

6 (a) How did Fox escape from the bag?

(b) Why did Heron Feather **not** notice Fox's escape?

- 7 (a) The story shows that **Heron Feather** was...

Tick **one**.

truthful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	foolish.	<input type="checkbox"/>
very brave.	<input type="checkbox"/>	hard-working.	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (b) The story shows that **Fox** was...

Tick **one**.

loud.	<input type="checkbox"/>	slow.	<input type="checkbox"/>
clever.	<input type="checkbox"/>	shy.	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 8 (a) How do you think Heron Feather felt at the end of the story?

- (b) Why did he feel like that?

- 9 Number the following events from 1 to 5 to show the order that they happened in the story.

The first one has been done for you.

Heron Feather picked up Fox.

Fox pretended to be dead.

Fox ate the fish.

Fox saw Heron Feather.

Fox wanted Heron Feather's fish.