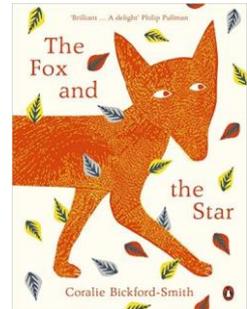
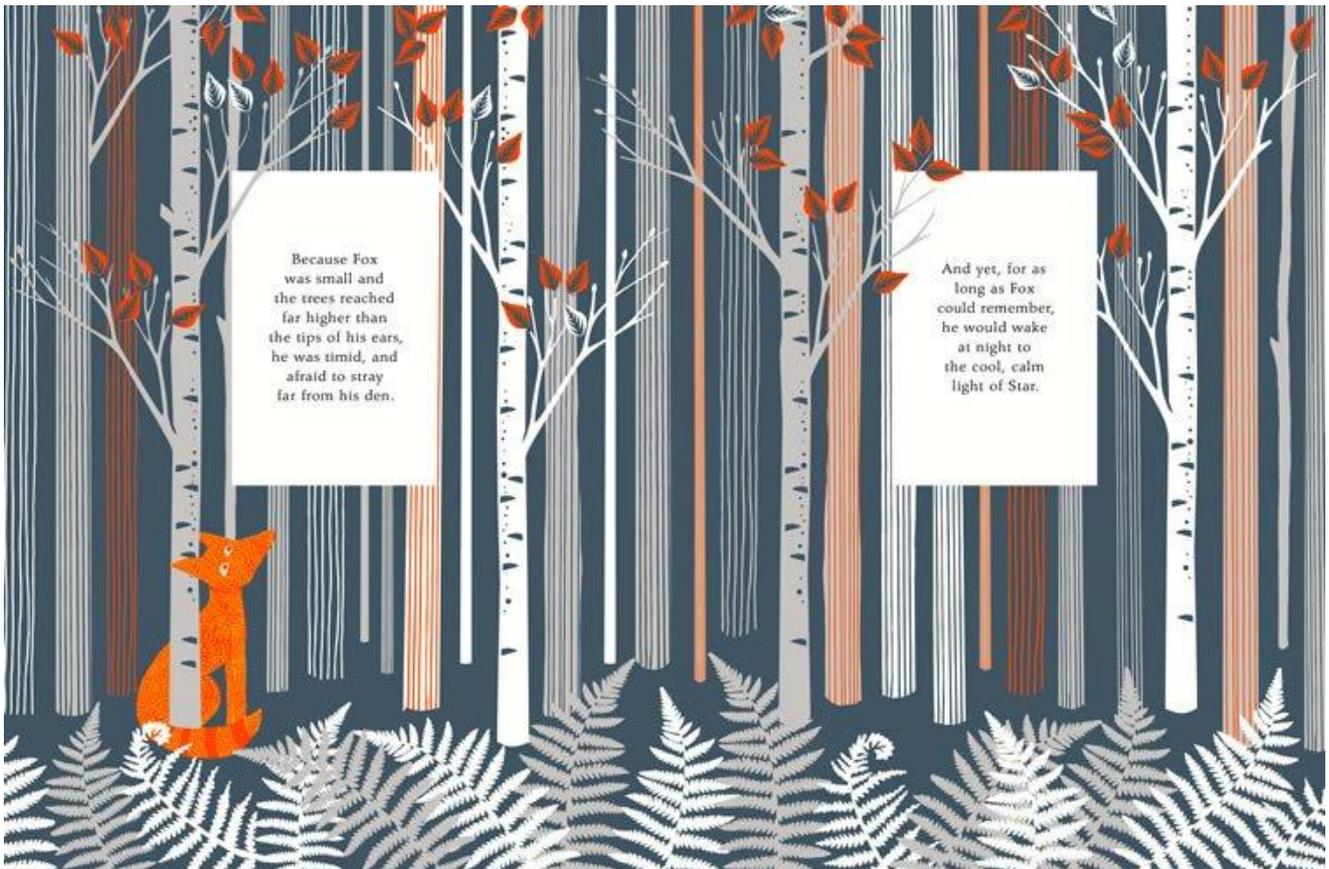


Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

The Fox and the Star by Coralie Bickford-Smith (Penguin)



1. Explore it



Read aloud the title of the story. Then read the pages above and spend time looking at the illustration.

- What is happening here? Where is it happening?
- How does the fox feel about the forest? What words in the text tell us this? What shows us in the illustration?
- Look again at the place described in the picture. What words or phrases would you use to describe it? Have you ever been to a forest? What was it like? Was it similar or different from this one?
- What time of year do you think this might be? What makes you think this?
- Look at the words used to describe the fox. How do these words and phrases make you feel about the character? Have you seen a real fox before? What was it like?
- What does he think about Star? Is this how you feel about the stars? Why? Why not?

2. Illustrate it

What do you think Fox sees as he gazes up into the night sky? Draw a picture of this as though you are looking through his eyes. You might draw the tops of the trees, the night sky filled with stars, the moon. You could even wait until the evening and look at the night sky outside through your window first, if you are able, talking about and describing what you see with someone else at home.

Draw this out, using whatever you have to hand, the back of an envelope or old letter or cereal box will do if you don't have paper to hand. Maybe other people in your family want to draw what they imagine her seeing as well. Remember, everyone has their own ideas and imagines things their own way. This is a good thing!

Once you have drawn your picture, share your drawings with someone else if you can, or talk about what you have drawn with someone else: what is similar about the drawings? What is different?

3. Talk about it

Fox and Star are special friends.

- Do you have a special friend? Why are they your special friend?
- What sorts of things do you do together? What do you like to talk about with your special friend?
- Do you have special games or toys that you like to play with together?
- How does it feel when you are with them?
- Do you have any photographs of you together that you could look at?

4. Imagine it

Imagine that you are with your special friend. What would you like to say to them? What have you been doing recently that you would like to share with them? Do you have any funny stories you could share with your friend?

If you are with someone else you could pretend to have this conversation, or you might use a toy to imagine this conversation between you and your friend.

Once you have imagined having a conversation with your friend, you might want to record your conversation in speech bubbles so you don't forget the things you want to tell them. Or, you could draw a favourite memory you have of spending time with your friend and write about it.

5. Create it

Now you have thought about your friend, you might like to write a letter to them, you might like to include a drawing in this letter or even a poem or a joke.

- What would you like to tell them about?
- Do you have any suggestions for things you could do together when you see each other again?
- How do you feel about your friend? How could you tell them this in your letter?