



Fox and Fluff

Fox is a tough guy. He's big. He's Bad. He eats chickens. Fluff is little. Fluff is round and soft. Fluff's a chick. And he knows his papa when he sees him — Fox! So what's a fox to do when a fluffy little chick adopts him? Fox faces the challenges of fatherhood — with humorous results!

Children will enjoy this tale of an unlikely friendship between a fox with a conscience and a spunky chick, with lively, loose-lined watercolor and pencil artwork that reflects the humor of the goings-on.

— Booklist, © 2002

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≈ Winner of the **Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Award!**

CLASSROOM EXTENSION IDEAS

LANGUAGE ARTS

In *Fox and Fluff*, the author references many motifs common to children's literature. Use these references to talk about the "culture" of stories in our society. For example, **Famous Fowl** — see the list on Fluff's whiteboard. What are the stories of these famous fowl? What other "famous fowl" do the students know? What about **famous foxes**? Can the students name any? If not, introduce them to Reynard or some of the fox stories from Aesop.

Three is a common number in western children's literature. Examine how the story is put together with two sequences of three incidents each. What other examples of threes can your students find? Have them write a story in which one or more of their characters must do something in a series of three. Discuss how this fleshes out their stories.

SCIENCE

Fox and Fluff relates the tale of a chick that has imprinted upon his vulpine father. Discuss imprinting. Can chicks imprint prior to hatching? What are some of the ways human babies identify their parents? How do seals, penguins, or sheep discern their parent(s) from others in huge groups?

SOCIAL STUDIES

Discuss the term "reputation" in the context of stereotypes. What kind of reputation do foxes generally have? Chicks? Are reputations always correct? Can they change?

Fluff learns to behave like a fox from his Papa Fox. Have your students list things they have learned about being human from their parents.