



3

The Shooting

‘Well, my darling,’ said Mr Fox. ‘What shall it be tonight?’

‘I think we’ll have duck tonight,’ said Mrs Fox.

‘Bring us two fat ducks, if you please. One for you and me, and one for the children.’

‘Ducks it shall be!’ said Mr Fox. ‘Bunce’s best!’

‘Now do be careful,’ said Mrs Fox.

‘My darling,’ said Mr Fox, ‘I can smell those goons a mile away. I can even smell one from the other. Boggis gives off a filthy stink of rotten chicken-skins. Bunce reeks of goose-livers, and as

for Bean, the fumes of apple cider hang around him like poisonous gases.'



'Yes, but just don't get careless,' said Mrs Fox. 'You know they'll be waiting for you, all three of them.'

'Don't you worry about me,' said Mr Fox. 'I'll see you later.'

But Mr Fox would not have been quite so cocky had he known exactly *where* the three farmers were waiting at that moment. They were just outside the entrance to the hole, each one crouching behind a tree with his gun loaded. And what is more, they

had chosen their positions very carefully, making sure that the wind was not blowing from them towards the fox's hole. In fact, it was blowing in the opposite direction. There was no chance of them being 'smelled out'.



Mr Fox crept up the dark tunnel to the mouth of his hole. He poked his long handsome face out into the night air and sniffed once.

He moved an inch or two forward and stopped. He sniffed again. He was always especially careful when coming out from his hole.

He inched forward a little more. The front half of his body was now in the open.

His black nose twitched from side to side, sniffing and sniffing for the scent of danger. He found none,

and he was just about to go trotting forward into the wood when he heard or thought he heard a tiny noise, a soft rustling sound, as though someone had moved a foot ever so gently through a patch of dry leaves.

Mr Fox flattened his body against the ground and lay very still, his ears pricked. He waited a long time, but he heard nothing more.

‘It must have been a field-mouse,’ he told himself, ‘or some other small animal.’

He crept a little further out of the hole ... then further still. He was almost right out in the open now. He took a last careful look around. The wood was murky and very still. Somewhere in the sky the moon was shining.

Just then, his sharp night-eyes caught a glint of something bright behind a tree not far away. It was a small silver speck of moonlight shining on a polished surface. Mr Fox lay still, watching it. What on earth was it? Now it was moving. It was coming up and up ... *Great heavens! It was the barrel of a gun!* Quick as a whip, Mr Fox jumped back into his hole and at that same instant the entire wood seemed to explode around him. *Bang-bang! Bang-*

L.O. To make a plausible prediction as to what will happen next.

SC1: I can use my own knowledge to predict.

SC2: I can use my knowledge of what has happened so far in the text.

SC3: I can explain my prediction and why it is plausible.

Task: Predict what will happen next.

Here is my example:

I think the Fox will out-smart the farmers. Fox is quite clever, he seems more intelligent than the farmers as he knew he could sense them by smelling them. I think because he is smart, he will run away and go back into his hole. Whilst the farmers wait for him to come out, he will dig his way out the other side and escape unharmed.

In my example, I have used my knowledge of what has happened so far in the text to make a prediction (SC2). I am predicting that the fox will out-smart the farmers because I know that Fox has used his intelligence over them before. I have explained why my prediction is plausible by further explaining what has happened already and therefore why I think this might happen (SC3). I have used my own knowledge from reading other stories or seeing things on television to predict how the fox might escape (SC1)

Now write your own prediction. Don't worry if yours is similar to mine today. We will be practising the skill of prediction over the next few days, without such a detailed example so that you will be able to use your own ideas. Once you have written your prediction and sent it to your teacher, finish reading the chapter (on a separate document on the website) to find out what actually happens next!