

# Miss Fox, Our Teacher

*This short story introduces an intriguing character, Miss Fox, who might be more than she seems.*

Miss Fox, our teacher, has red hair.

So red, you can see it from one end of the school to the other. Miss Fox also has a very loud voice.

One morning, she barked, "We are going to make a dark room, children."

Her voice was so loud that when she spoke, she made us all jump.

"We'll make the dark room out of cardboard boxes," Miss Fox went on, "and we'll paint it black."

So that's what we did.

We stuck the boxes together and made the walls.

Next we made a cardboard ceiling.

Miss Fox helped us to paint the ceiling and the walls black.

But afterwards, she snapped, "Stars, children! We need stars." So we made stars.

Big silver stars and little silver stars and we stuck the stars on the cardboard ceiling.

"Hmmm!" growled Miss Fox. "Planets! We need planets." We made three planets.

A red, a green and a blue, and we hung them up on strings.

There was Planet Mars.

Planet Saturn.

And Planet Pluto.

Miss Fox said, "Who will make a big white moon?"

"I will," I said.

I cut the moon out of a sheet of snow-white paper.

Then we stuck the moon on the ceiling together with all the stars and the planets.

When Miss Fox shone her torch on the moon, it glowed white. "Wild animals," Miss Fox yelped, "would love this room. They would feel safe in this room because there's no light, only the moon and the stars."

And it was very quiet.

That night, when we had all gone home and the school was empty, I lay in bed and hoped a real fox would jump in through a window, pad into our dark room and fall asleep, curling his tail around his nose and dreaming that he was safe.

So the first thing I did the next morning was to check and see if the fox was there.

But he was long gone.

Except I found a hair, as red as any of the hairs curling around Miss Fox's head. And I wondered if Miss Fox had such a loud voice because every night she went out and barked at the moon.

Name: ..... Class: ..... Date: .....

**1** Tick **two** things we are told Miss Fox has at the start of the story.  
 a large nose       red hair       prominent teeth       a loud voice

**2** What do the children use to construct their dark room?  
 .....

**3** What do they use to make the room dark inside?  
 .....

**4** List the items that the children put inside the room.  
 .....

**5** What overall effect does Miss Fox want to create?  
 .....

**6** Why does Miss Fox say that wild animals would love the room that the children have made?  
 .....

**7** How does the author let us know that Miss Fox's words make a big impression on:  
**a)** the children?  
 .....  
**b)** the narrator?  
 .....

**8** What evidence does the narrator find in the dark room the following morning?  
 .....

**9** What conclusion does the narrator draw from this?  
 .....

**10** There are hints that Miss Fox may be more than just an ordinary teacher. Can you identify the clues the author uses to link Miss Fox to the animal that bears her name?

At the beginning of the story, the author tells us that ...
The author uses the following speech verbs to describe how Miss Fox speaks:
At the end of the story, ...