

## **Opera Stories | *Cunning Little Vixen* Story**

Our story starts in the forest, where there are lots of animals playing and exploring.

A forester, someone who looks after the forest, comes along and notices a Frog on a log. He watches the frog and eventually falls asleep. When he wakes up, he sees a young Vixen (a girl fox) and catches her! He decides to take her home and make her his pet! Unfortunately, he ties her up with a rope to stop her escaping. The forester and his family treat her really badly.

One day, the vixen decides she has had enough! She chews through her rope, attacks the Forester's chickens and runs away back to the forest, her home.

The forester and his friends have just been to the pub. On their walk home, he sees the Vixen. He tries to shoot her, but she runs away and escapes!

So, she explained that the Forester didn't feed her, so she had to steal food from him. He caught her stealing red-handed, but she used this chance to escape back to the forest and back to freedom!

Back in the forest, the Fox and the Vixen decide to get married. Soon, they have lots of little baby cubs and all the animals in the forest to celebrate.

A Poacher, someone who kills animals illegally, sets a fox trap to capture and kill the Vixen. The Vixen and her cubs find the trap and dance around it, laughing at the Poacher's trick, which didn't fool them! But the sneaky Poacher has been watching the Vixen and shoots her! Unfortunately, she dies and all of the cubs run back home.

The Forester hears what has happened from his friend the Poacher and is deeply sad. He returns to the forest where he first saw the vixen and sees the Frog on a log which he saw all that time ago. The Frog says 'That wasn't me! That was my Grandad!'

The Forester sits and thinks about the circle of life and nature and how death can lead to life.

**The End**