

## Opera Stories | *Cunning Little Vixen* Teacher Notes and Script

### Suggested activities

#### Freeze Frames

Have the whole class adopt a freeze frame for different sections of the story. This could be the Vixen sneaking around and stealing food, being trapped in the rope, or the Poacher trying to shoot the Vixen. The Forest could also be created through freeze frames of trees, or by making the sounds of the forest.

#### Read the story

To practice their reading out loud, children could read (perform) the script with or instead of the narrator.

#### Quiz

Children could be asked the below questions and improve comprehension by going back over the script to answer them.

1. What is the name for a female fox? She is the main character in the opera  
A: A Vixen
2. Which character captures the Vixen?  
A: The Forester
3. What do you call someone who captures and kills animals illegally?  
A: A Poacher
4. What do the Vixen and the cubs when they find the Poacher's trap?  
A: They laugh and dance around the fox trap!
5. What animal does The Forester speak to at the end of the story?  
A: A frog

Section	Script
1. The Forest/ Capture  1:29 - 1:58	<p>Our story starts in the forest, where there are lots of animals playing and exploring.</p> <p>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.</p>
2. Escape and Shots Fired  1:58 – 2:42	<p>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.</p> <p>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!</p>

<p>3. Young Love</p> <p>2:42 – 2:58</p>	<p>The Vixen meets a handsome young Fox and they fall in love. She tells him about the horrible time she had when the Forester captured her and she was tied up. She tells him that she used to steal food from the Forester and that one day she got caught!</p>
<p>4. Vixen aria <i>I used to steal things.</i></p> <p>2:58 – 4:53</p>	<p><i>In this section, children could be asked how the music and the singing represents the character of The Vixen.</i></p>
<p>5. Summary of the aria (song)</p> <p>4:53 – 5:11</p>	<p>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!</p>
<p>6. Marriage</p> <p>5:11 – 5:23</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>7. Trap</p> <p>5:23 – 5:57</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>8. The Circle of Life</p> <p>5:57 – 6:31</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>9. Final music</p> <p>6:31 – End</p>	<p>ARIA</p>