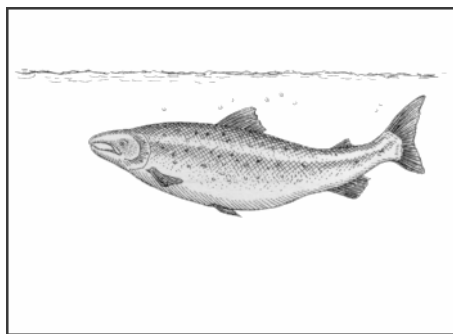


# 1. Animals in Stories

Many stories have animal characters.

Some traditional stories have animals as the main characters instead of people. We usually know what to expect of each animal – good or bad, fast or slow, strong or weak, trustworthy or cunning. In many stories the biggest, strongest animal is taught a lesson by the smaller, weaker animal.

Animal characters are found in stories from all over the world.



Fish in a story from China.



A duck in a story from England



Bush characters in a story from Australia

Each of these animals in fiction has its own character, but each one has links with facts about the animal in real life.

Illustration from *Farmer Duck* by Martin Waddell, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. Reproduced by permission of Walker Books Ltd, London.

## Animal facts

- Dogs like being with people. People keep dogs as pets or to do work.
- Dogs can be trained to look after people. Guide dogs help people who cannot see.
- Dogs have a very good sense of smell. Police dogs can find things and people by their smell.
- Dogs are sometimes called 'man's best friend'.

## Dogs in Real Life



- Foxes will live almost anywhere there is shelter and food.
- Foxes will eat all sorts of different things. They sometimes steal chickens but more often hunt rabbits and other wild animals. In towns, foxes take food from bins.
- Fox cubs 'play-fight' with each other. They learn how to pin each other down and how to use their teeth. This trains them for hunting.

## Foxes in Real Life



Effort has been made to trace the source of the photograph of fox cubs. Anyone seeking acknowledgement should contact QCA.

## **Animals in Fiction**

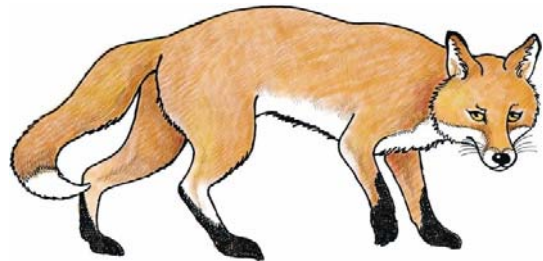
### **Dogs in Stories**

Dogs in stories are usually good characters and often help people.



### **Foxes in Stories**

Foxes in stories are clever and cunning.



## Animal facts

- Hares can run at over 60 kilometres per hour.
- Hares live in the countryside, feeding on crops from the fields.
- Hares have giant ears and large eyes. They can see all around without moving their heads.

### Hares in Real Life



### Tortoises in Real Life

- Tortoises live for many years.
- Tortoises move slowly.
- A tortoise can pull its head, legs and tail into its shell when it wants to hide.

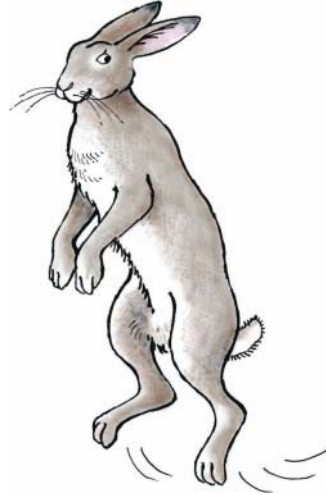


Effort has been made to trace the source of the photograph of the tortoise. Anyone seeking acknowledgement should contact QCA.

## Animals in Fiction

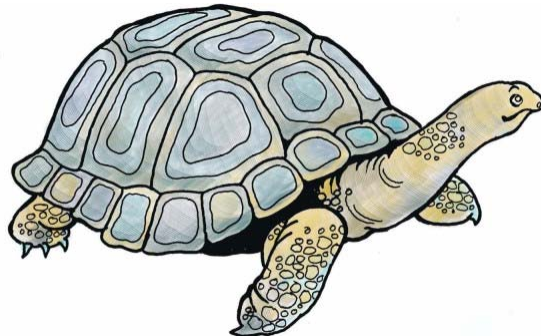
- Hares in stories boast about their speed and rush into action before thinking.

### Hares in Stories



### Tortoises in Stories

- Tortoises in stories are steady and keep on trying until they succeed.



## 2. Animals in Stories

- 1 The animal characters are described as:  
*good or bad, fast or slow, strong or weak, trustworthy or cunning.*

What do you notice about these pairs of words?

They are similar.

They rhyme.

They are in bold print.

They are opposites.

- 2 Why are headings used?

They teach you about alphabetical order.

They show what information is on the page.

They explain what different words mean.

They tell you where the book was made.

- 3 Tick ✓ or cross ✗ these sentences about **real animals** to show whether they are true facts or not.

	✓ or ✗
Guide dogs are trained to look after people.	
Foxes sometimes take food from bins.	
Foxes only eat rabbits.	
Hares live in towns.	
Tortoises live for a long time.	

- 4 Think about how animals in stories get their special characters from the way they behave in real life.

Fill in the following table.

Some spaces have been filled in for you.

Animal	In stories	Because in real life they
Hares	boastful	can run very fast
Foxes	.....	have many different ways of finding food and shelter
Dogs	helpful	..... .....
Tortoises	steady	walk slowly

- 5 Why has the author chosen photographs rather than drawings to illustrate the **Animal Facts** pages?

to show what the animals really look like

to show what the animals can do

to show what kind of story character the animals have

to show how old the animals are

6 In which part of the booklet would you look for information about animals that is true?

*Animals in Fiction*

the front cover

*Animal Facts*

*A Flea in the Ear*