

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

## The Eagle and the Fox

One morning the fox said to his children, "I will find some eggs for breakfast." Then he went to the woods. The fox saw an eagle's nest in the top branch of a tree. "How can I reach those eggs?" he thought. "Ha, ha! Now I have a plan."



He put some grass stalks into his ears and knocked on the tree with them.

"Throw an egg to me," cried the fox to the eagle in the nest. "If you do not throw an egg to me, I will knock this great tree over with these grass stalks."

The eagle was terribly frightened, and she threw an egg down to the fox.

"Throw another egg down to me at once," demanded the fox when he saw that he had frightened the eagle.

"One egg is enough," said the eagle. "I shall not throw down any more eggs."

"Throw another egg to me, or I shall knock the tree over with these grass stalks and take all of your eggs," said the fox.

The eagle was still more frightened, and she threw down another egg.

Then the fox laughed and said, "How could I knock down a great tree with these small grass stalks?"

The eagle became very angry. She flew down from her nest and grasped the fox with her talons.

Then she lifted the fox up and flew with him far out to sea. She dropped him upon a lonely island.

The fox was left on the lonely island. One day he asked himself, “Am I going to go hungry on this island?”

Then the fox began to sing softly. Seals, walruses, porpoises, and whales swam near the island.

“What are you singing about?” asked the sea animals.

“This is what I am singing about,” said the fox. “Are there more large animals in the waters of the sea or on dry land?”

“Certainly there are more animals in the waters of the sea than on dry land,” replied the sea animals.

“Well then, prove it to me,” said the fox. “Come up to the surface of the water and form a raft that will reach from this island to the mainland. Then I can walk over all of you, and I shall be able to count you.”

So the large sea animals—the seals, walruses, porpoises, and the whales--came up to the surface of the water.

The sea animals formed a great raft that reached from the island across to the mainland.

This was what the fox wanted. He ran over the great raft, pretending to count the animals.

When at last the fox reached the mainland, he jumped ashore and hastened home.



**Questions:**

1. Why did the eagle throw down eggs to the fox?

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2. How does the fox get off of the island?

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3. Which word best describes the fox?

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4. What do you think will happen next if the story kept going?

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**Answers:**

1. Why did the eagle throw down eggs to the fox?  
The eagle threw down the egg because the fox fooled her into think he would bring the tree down with stalks of grass.
2. How does the fox get off of the island?  
The fox fooled the sea animals into making a great big raft from the island to the mainland that he could run across.
3. Which word best describes the fox?  
The word that best described the fox is sly.
4. What do you think will happen next if the story kept going?  
Answers will vary, but could include the sea animals felt fooled and were angry with the fox.