

The Fox and the Cockerel by Kate Ruttle

One evening, a cockerel flew into his roosting tree, settled down beside the hens and crowed happily at the sunset. "Cock-a-doodle-do".

Shortly after, a fox came and settled down under the tree. He looked up at the cockerel.

"Can I help you?" asked the cockerel politely.

"Oh yes!" said the fox. "I have good news. From today, all animals are friends. We will never harm each other or eat each other ever again. I am so happy, I want to give you a hug."

Cockerel was a bit suspicious, but he said, "That's excellent news," and he crowed as if to celebrate. "Cock-a-doodle-do."

Then he stretched his neck and peered into the distance. "Look!" he said. "The farmer's dogs have heard the good news. If you wait a moment, you can give them a hug too!"

"Perhaps the news hasn't reached them yet," said the fox. "They might chase me." And away he ran.

The hens clucked. "You are clever!" they said.

"Well, I'm certainly not as stupid as the fox thinks I am!" said the cockerel. "Cock-a-doodle-do."



Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 Look at the first sentence.
What does the word “roosting” mean?
Choose **one**.

- cooking
- crowing
- sleeping
- talking

1a

1 mark

2 What did the cockerel crow at?

1b

1 mark

3 **Find and copy** the **four** words that tell you the good news the fox is sharing.

1b

1 mark

4 Why did the fox run away when he thought the farmer’s dogs were coming?

1d

1 mark

5 What do you think the fox would have done if the cockerel had flown down to him?

1e

1 mark

6 What lesson does this fable teach us?

Choose **one**.

- All animals should be friends with all other animals.
- If something sounds too good to be true, it is probably not true.
- If you think someone is not clever, they probably are.
- Never listen when foxes speak.

1d

1 mark