

## THE FOX AND THE GRAPES

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You will have heard the story of the Fox and the grapes. But not this one! So if you are sitting comfortably, I shall tell it to you.

Once upon a time there was a fox. He was out walking one day when he saw a sight that made his mouth water, and he began to feel as hungry as hungry can be. He spied a vine with a most luscious bunch of grapes on it. But, sad to say, the grapes were very high up, very high indeed, far beyond his reach.

This fox had of course heard the story of the other fox who seen lovely grapes, had wanted them, and had made effort after effort to fetch them down. Then, when he could not get them and had given up he had said that they were sour. But this fox knew better than to believe such a tale. He was moreover a different kind of fox and he was not going to be prevented from getting those grapes.

So he was not easily put off and when his first efforts to reach them had met with no success he was simply spurred on to try again. He could not forget what his mother had taught him, that if at first you don't succeed, you must try, try, try again. So he did try as hard as he could again and again.

He jumped and he pulled. He rested and he climbed. He even shouted a little from time to time. But all was without success. As he sat down to rest, he thought of some clever friends and went off to them to seek for their advice. He then knew that he would have to get professional help and training, so he went to the wisest foxes in the land and sat at their feet.

Fortified by what he had learnt, he then went back to the vine where he had seen those beautiful grapes, and after many, many long and arduous efforts he finally achieved his goal and got hold of the prize. He went off joyfully with his grapes in hand and -- what do you think? When he began to eat them, he found that they actually were sour.

So he sat down and thought about the matter very carefully. When he went to bed, he could not sleep for thinking. He could not let on about it to the other foxes. They had spent long hours teaching him how to be successful, and had

time and again encouraged him to persevere. His friends had put up with his arduous way of life while he was in training. Since everyone had been of such help, he did not want to disillusion them. In fact, he himself did not want to believe that the grapes were sour. That is why he always let it be known how much he enjoyed the grapes. Wherever he went, whenever people asked him about the grapes, he said that they were very sweet