

This is an old Native American story about a man called Heron Feather and the time he met a fox.

Heron Feather is a Native American warrior. Warriors were sometimes known as 'braves'.

The Fox and the Boastful Brave

One fine day, a hungry fox was walking down the road. His tummy was rumbling so loudly that he almost didn't hear the sound of someone coming. Just in time, he heard someone singing. Fox dashed off the path and hid behind a bush.

Over the top of the hill, he saw a tall feather. Fox crouched down and prepared to pounce on the bird. Imagine his surprise when he saw that the 'bird' was riding a horse! The feather was stuck in the headdress of a handsome young man who was riding along the path, singing as he went, "No one is handsomer than Heron Feather. No one is a better fisherman than Heron Feather. And I should know, for I am he."



Fox didn't care if the man was handsome, but he pricked up his ears at the word 'fisherman', for where there are fishermen, there are fish. And a tasty fish would just suit Fox. His nose twitched. A delightful fishy smell was coming out of the man's leather bag.

Heron Feather continued his boastful song. He was on his way to ask a young woman called Swaying Reed to marry him, and he was making himself feel braver by singing his own praises.

Fox bounded ahead of the horse and lay down on the path.

"No one is stronger than... what's this? A fox? When Swaying Reed's mother sees this, she will know what a great hunter I am."

And he picked Fox up, flung him into his bag of fish and laced it shut again. Heron Feather remounted and began a new song.

“No one is a greater hunter than Heron Feather...”

Inside the bag, surrounded by lovely smelly fish, Fox’s mouth was watering. He waited a few minutes, then bit a big hole in the side of the bag. One by one, all the fish fell out, followed last of all by Fox. Heron Feather was singing too loudly to notice.



Fox made his way slowly along the path, stopping to eat each fish as he went. His tummy was fuller than it had been for days.

Meanwhile, Heron Feather had arrived at Swaying Reed’s house. He stopped his horse outside and sang his song about how clever and handsome he was, what a great hunter and what a great fisherman he was. (In fact, he hadn’t caught those fish at all; he had traded his mother’s shoes for them.)

Heron Feather reached for his bag of fish to show Swaying Reed and her mother what a good husband he would be. When he saw it was empty, with a large hole in it, he stopped in mid-song.

He sang no more, but turned his horse and rode away.

Safe in his den, Fox was content. “It is one thing to catch a fox,” he thought, “but quite another to keep it.”



These questions are about *The Fox and the Boastful Brave*

(page 1)

- 1 *Just in time, he heard someone singing. Fox dashed off the path and hid behind a bush.*

Find and **copy one** word that shows that Fox moved quickly.

(page 1)

- 2 What did Fox think was coming over the hill?

Tick **one**.

a horse

☐

a man

☐

a bird

☐

a fish

☐

(page 2)

- 3 Explain why Fox became interested in Heron Feather when he heard his song.

(page 2)

- 4 What was Heron Feather on his way to do?

(page 2)

- 5 **How** did Fox trick Heron Feather into picking him up?

Tick **one**.

He prepared to pounce.

☐

He lay on the path.

☐

He bounded ahead.

☐

He hid in a bush.

☐

(page 2)

- 6 (a) How did Fox escape from the bag?

- (b) Why did Heron Feather **not** notice Fox's escape?

(pages 1-3)

- 7 (a) The story shows that **Heron Feather** was...

Tick **one**.

truthful.

☐

foolish.

☐

very brave.

☐

hard-working.

☐

- (b) The story shows that **Fox** was...

Tick **one**.

loud.

☐

slow.

☐

clever.

☐

shy.

☐

(page 3)

- 8 (a) How do you think Heron Feather felt at the end of the story?

(b) Why did he feel like that?

(pages 1-3)

- 9 Number the following events from 1 to 5 to show the order that they happened in the story.

The first one has been done for you.

Heron Feather picked up Fox.

Fox pretended to be dead.

Fox ate the fish.

Fox saw Heron Feather.

Fox wanted Heron Feather's fish.

Mark schemes

- 1 **Content domain:** 1a - draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts.

Award 1 mark for:

- *dashed*

Also accept incorrect tenses, e.g.

- *dashing.*

1 mark

- 2 **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.
Secondary content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text.

Award 1 mark for:

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| a horse | <input type="checkbox"/> | a bird | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| a man | <input type="checkbox"/> | a fish | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1 mark

- 3 **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.
Secondary content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text.

Award 2 marks for reference to Heron Feather being a fisherman / having fish **and** any reference to Fox being hungry / liking fish or thinking he might have a chance of getting fish / a meal, e.g.

- *his song said he was a fisherman and so he might have fish with him*
- *because he mentioned the word fish and he might have hoped there was a fish in his bag*
- *because he said he was a fisherman and Fox wants fish*
- *the fox likes fish and the man is a fisherman*
- *Heron Feather was singing that he was a good fisherman and Fox was hungry.*

Award 1 mark reference to **either** of the following acceptable points:

- Heron Feather being a fisherman / having fish, e.g.
 - *because he said he was a fisherman*
 - *the fox became interested in his song when he said no one is a better fisherman than Heron Feather*
 - *he thought he had a fish*
 - *where there are fisherman, there are fish*
 - *he sang the word fish*
 - *he pricked up his ears at the word 'fisherman'.*
- Fox being hungry / liking fish or thinking he might have a chance of getting a fish / a meal, e.g.
 - *because his belly was rumbling*
 - *because he's hungry for fish*
 - *Fox loves fish*
 - *and a tasty fish would just suit Fox.*

Do not accept references to the quotation *a delightful fishy smell was coming out of the man's leather bag* (**not** a reference to Heron Feather's song).

Up to 2 marks

- 4 **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

Award 1 mark for reference to Heron Feather going to see Swaying Reed or asking Swaying Reed to marry him, e.g.

- *to visit Swaying Reed*
- *to talk to Swaying Reed*
- *to meet a young woman*
- *to say to a girl he wanted to marry her*
- *to say to Swaying Reed will you marry me?*

Also accept references to Heron Feather going to marry Swaying Reed (a misunderstanding of the difference between a marriage proposal / getting married), e.g.

- *to marry Swaying Reed*
- *to marry a girl.*

Do not accept ambiguous references to his intended task, e.g.

- *to see someone*
- *going to Swaying Reed's house*
- *ask someone.*

1 mark

- 5 **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

Award 1 mark for:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| He prepared to pounce. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| He lay on the path. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| He bounded ahead. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| He hid in a bush. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1 mark

- 6 (a) **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

Award 1 mark for reference to Fox biting through the bag / making a hole in the bag (with his teeth), e.g.

- *he chewed it*
- *he bit the bag*
- *he ripped a hole*
- *he cut a hole with his teeth*
- *he made a hole.*

Do not accept references to Fox using his *claws* to make the hole, e.g.

- *he clawed a hole.*

1 mark

- (b) **Content domain:** 1b - identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

Award 1 mark for reference to Heron Feather singing (too loudly to hear), e.g.

- *he was too busy singing*
- *he was singing*
- *he sang so loudly.*

1 mark

- 7 (a) **Content domain:** 1d - make inferences from the text.

Award 1 mark for:

truthful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	foolish.	<input type="checkbox"/>
very brave.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	hard-working.	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 mark

- (b) **Content domain:** 1d - make inferences from the text.

Award 1 mark for:

loud.	<input type="checkbox"/>	slow.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
clever.	<input type="checkbox"/>	shy.	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 mark

- 8 (a) **Content domain:** 1d - make inferences from the text.

Award 1 mark for any plausible text-based emotion, e.g.

- *angry / cross / annoyed*
- *embarrassed / silly*
- *sad / upset*
- *surprised / shocked*
- *disappointed*
- *confused.*

1 mark

- (b) **Content domain:** 1d - make inferences from the text.

Secondary content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.

Award 1 mark for any plausible text-based explanation for Heron Feather's reaction, e.g.

- *the fish had gone*
- *he was tricked*
- *the fox escaped*
- *he wanted to marry Swaying Reed*
- *he realised there was a hole in the bag*
- *he wanted to show her how brave he was and he was the best fisherman*
- *he couldn't give anything to her.*

N.B. To be awarded the mark, the explanation given in part b does **not** have to link with the emotion given in part a; it must, however, be plausible and

text-based.

1 mark

- 9 **Content domain:** 1c - identify and explain the sequence of events in texts.

Award 1 mark for all boxes numbered correctly:

Heron Feather picked up Fox.	4
Fox pretended to be dead.	3
Fox ate the fish.	5
Fox saw Heron Feather.	1
Fox wanted Heron Feather's fish.	2

1 mark