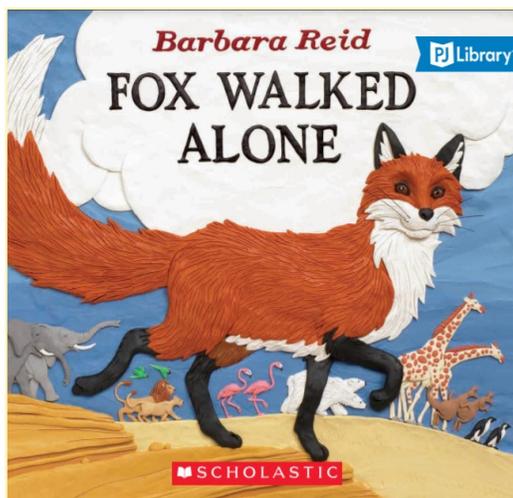


Fox Walked Alone

written by
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{ When have you been on a journey? }



Storied Stories

The story of Noah’s ark is from the Torah (the first five books of the Bible), but the original version doesn’t mention anything about a fox’s journey. This book is an example of the Jewish tradition of midrash – writing additional stories about the tales in the Torah. Midrash fills in narrative gaps and provides extra details about Torah characters. The collection of midrash known as Midrash Rabbah (“The Great Midrash”) was compiled between 400 and 1000 CE, but any story that helps illuminate or interpret a Torah story can be loosely referred to as midrash. You can even write your own! To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/foxwalkedalone.

HANDS ON!

Make Handprint Foxes

When were you inspired by Fox’s tail as well as his tale? Make a handprint fox craft. If you make two foxes, neither of them will have to walk alone.

- Supplies
- Orange construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Crayons

Trace your hands (see above) on a piece of paper and cut them out. Draw two circles (about an inch diameter) and four triangles (about a half-inch tall) and cut them out as well.

Turn each hand print upside down. The four fingers are your foxes’ legs, and the thumbs are their tails. Glue the circles near the bottom of the pinkies – these will be the foxes’ heads. Glue the triangles on top of their heads to make their ears.

Color in your foxes. You can color their tails and collars white, like the foxes in this book, and give them black noses and ears. Your foxes are ready for play or display!

A Caring Community

ADuring a time of crisis, we often have to break with normalcy – and so it is in this story. Most foxes are nocturnal, but here Fox is wide awake and on the move in broad daylight. Foxes tend to be solitary, but this one finds himself curling up with others and sleeping with them at night. Perhaps most unusual for a predator, Fox is called upon to help someone, and he doesn’t hesitate. In extraordinary times, we discover new things about ourselves and those around us. Fox may start his journey walking alone, but he soon learns that he is part of a *kehillat chesed*, a caring community in which everyone looks out for one another – foxes included.

All for the Animals

The value of caring for animals (*tza’ar ba’alei chayim* in Hebrew) pops up throughout the Torah, which tells us to feed animals before we feed ourselves and to give livestock a day off on Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath. It’s a good thing Noah takes caring for animals so seriously, as there are a lot of animals heading to his ark! Luckily, Noah has built an ark large enough to accommodate them all. It would have taken him a lot less time (and attracted much less attention) if he’d made a boat just for himself and his family, but Noah just can’t leave a single species behind.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

HOW many different animals in this book can you name? Which animals have two feet, and which have four? Which have feathers, and which have fur?

THERE are many animals on the ark – and of course, many more in the ocean. How many animals do you see in your world on a daily basis – indoors and out? How would the world be different without pets and wild animals?

DID you notice when Fox met another fox along his journey? What do you think the foxes said to each other when they met? Do they look happy to find each other? How can you tell?