# Tell a Tale tales to laugh at, tales to wonder at

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**ACTIVITY TEACHING PACK** 

# Mr Fox

## Mr Fox

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#### **Health Warning**

This Activity Teaching Pack comes with a health warning: it contains material which is overtly violent and implicitly sexual.

While that makes it very suitable for most classes who are in their mid-teenage years and older, and although the activities certainly help students handle such content, teachers ought to be aware that this is a "strong" story.

But before you shy away from something which seems so explosive, consider:

- Such strong content certainly meets the essential English language teaching criterion of being significant and can have intertextual connections to Shakespeare's Macbeth and numerous texts of horror fiction.
- Storytelling allows the listener to retain some control over such material (see the "Fear of Fantasy" chapter in The Uses of Enchantment, (Bettelheim, 1975).
- The hot-seat activity, drawn from drama work, offers a controlled way for students to discuss issues with which they might normally feel uncomfortable.

#### BEFORE WATCHING: research and discussion

- Collect historical examples of powerful women. Here are two suggestions:
  - 1. Paul Ratner's "15 Most powerful women in history"
  - 2. An anonymous author's "Top 10 most powerful women in history"
- Do such examples suggest that patriarchy is not inevitable? This article can spur discussion: <u>Analysis of Claimed "Nonpatriarchal Societies"</u>
- Discuss the <u>#MeToo movement</u>. An American group of attorneys, Advocates for Change, offer <u>more details about the movement's history</u>.
- How were such issues dealt with in the past?

#### **WATCH Mr Fox**