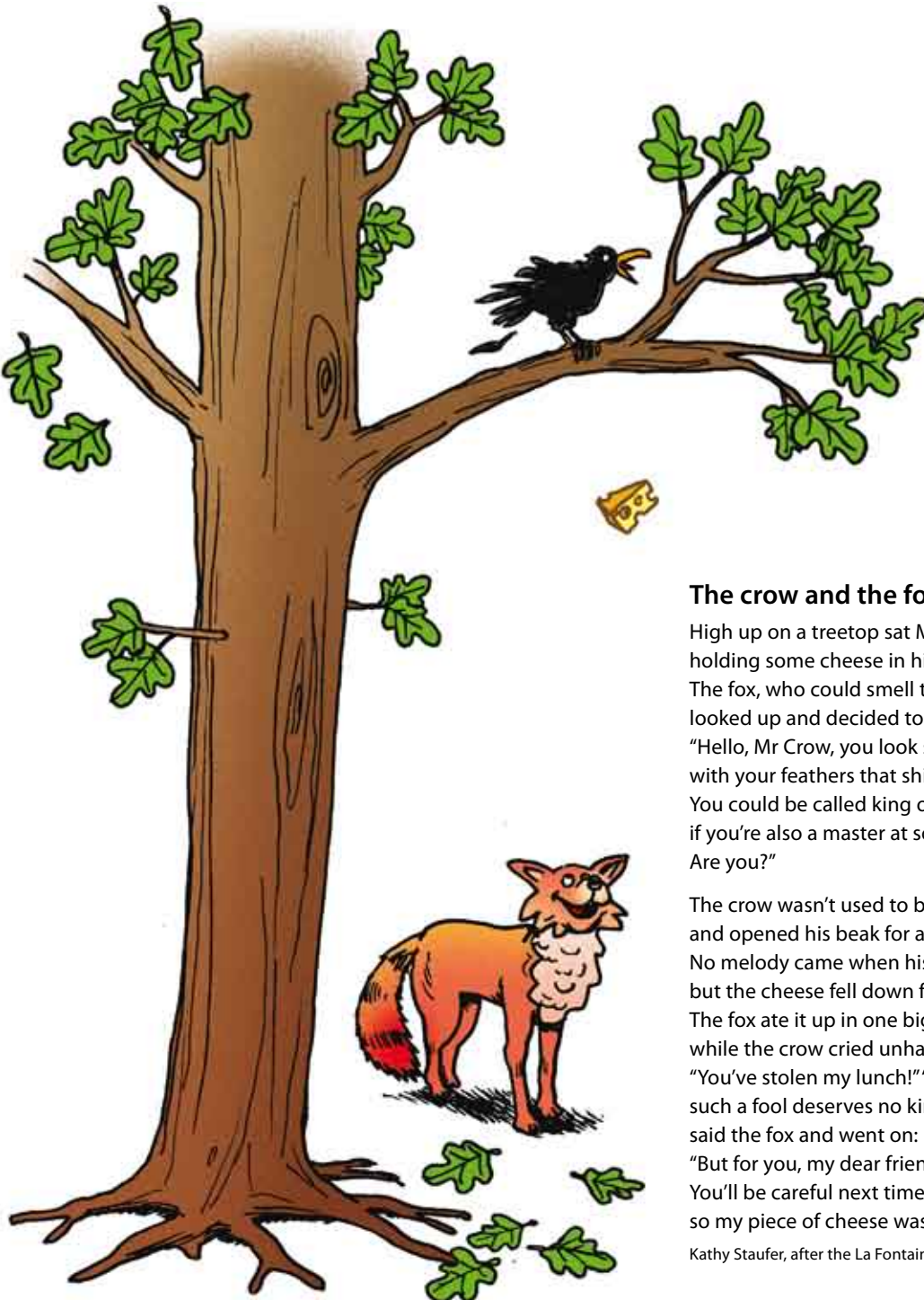


Special facts: The crow and the fox

There are many tales and songs about foxes. Folklore says that they are *sly* and that they steal chickens and geese. The children's song "Fuchs, du hast die Gans gestohlen" is about this. Another example that tells of the fox's cleverness is the fable "The Raven and the Fox" by Jean de La Fontaine.

sly schlau, listig

Listen to the poem (CD2, Track 2).



The crow and the fox

High up on a treetop sat Mr Crow
holding some cheese in his beak.
The fox, who could smell this from way down below,
looked up and decided to speak:
"Hello, Mr Crow, you look splendid today
with your feathers that shine in the sun.
You could be called king of the forest, I'd say,
if you're also a master at song.
Are you?"

The crow wasn't used to being so praised
and opened his beak for a croak.
No melody came when his voice was raised,
but the cheese fell down from the oak.
The fox ate it up in one big bite
while the crow cried unhappily down:
"You've stolen my lunch!" "Well it serves you right,
such a fool deserves no king's crown,"
said the fox and went on:
"But for you, my dear friend, it is clearly a lesson learned.
You'll be careful next time you have caught a bite,
so my piece of cheese was well earned!"

Kathy Stauffer, after the La Fontaine fable "Le corbeau et le renard"



Learn it by heart and perform it to your classmates.