



Outfoxed

Mike Twohy

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Quack, quack—woof? A quick-thinking duck keeps a fox on his toes in this witty romp from a *New Yorker* cartoonist.

One dark night in the henhouse, a hungry fox in search of his dinner gets more than he bargains for. Instead of a chicken, Fox grabs a duck. A very smart duck. A duck so sly, he plans to convince Fox that he isn't a duck but a—dog! Yes, a dog.

This clever story and its accompanying visual narrative will delight readers young and old—because if it looks like a duck, and it quacks like a duck, it HAS to be a duck...right?

Outfoxed Details

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From Reader Review Outfoxed for online ebook

Amy says

Clever duck tries to save her tail-feathers by outsmarting fox. Pair this with Buddy And Bunnies In Don't Play With Your Food by Bob Shea or Bark, George by Jules Feiffer.

Barbara says

A wily and hungry fox slips into a nearby henhouse, snatches what he thinks will be the main ingredient in a succulent chicken dinner, and then realizes that he has run off with a duck instead. The duck is no fool so it immediately starts trying to outfox the fox by behaving like a dog. There is much tail wagging, slobbering, and barking. Eventually, the fox has had enough love and returns the duck to his farm home. Only after he returns home to find the egg the duck left behind does he realize his mistake. Young readers will chortle as they read this simple, humorous story embellished with illustrations created with markers and colored pencils.

Caryn Caldwell says

One dark night, Fox breaks into a henhouse, hoping for a snack. He narrowly escapes with his poultry dinner intact, but when he arrives home he discovers he's stolen a duck instead of a chicken. Oh, well. Ducks are edible too, right? Except this is no ordinary duck. This one is very smart, and determined to convince Fox he's not any type of bird at all; he's actually a dog.

Outfoxed is a hilarious tale that captures canine habits in a spot-on and amusing way. The question of who will outfox whom keeps the suspense going until the last page, and the revelation in the end is a whole lot of fun. The sound effects, drama, and wink-wink-nod-nod nature of the story make it particularly suited for a lively read-aloud. My four-year-old loves this story, and I can't wait to share it with my early elementary-schoolers.

Amy Lafleur Meyers says

The story contains lots of action as fox tries to steal a chicken and gets a duck instead who pretends to be a dog. It's written and illustrated like a cartoon, with color and font used to emphasize certain words - especially nouns and verbs. Very funny story!

Alyssa Gudenburr says

A funny picture book about how a duck pretends to be a dog so he doesn't get eaten. I wish the pictures were bigger so I could use it for a read aloud. Would make a great story for elementary children.

John says

I like this book because it's so silly: instead of a dog, there's a duck and at the end, she [spoiler alert] lays an egg and tricks the fox. And then he says GRRRRRRRR!

Barbara says

Fox crept into the henhouse and grabbed a chicken! After a really scary get-away he arrives home to find that he hasn't nabbed a chicken after all! What happens next will surprise and delight young readers and the big people who read to them. OutFoxed is really fresh and funny! This is a great read for kids 3-10, aw heck, make that 3-100.

Hannah Givens says

I liked the art, it reminded me of kids' coloring (in a good way!)

Karin says

Hysterical!!! I love the writing style in this book. For example,

"A dark night. Fox breaks into a hen house. He reaches in. He grabs a chicken!!!"

The short, stilted sentences add to the humor of this story. Poor Fox, he goes through so much just for a chicken dinner - only to find that he mistakenly grabbed a duck instead of a chicken. Oh well, whatcha gonna do? Duck will have to do. But, Duck has other ideas. He says, "You are mistaken, sir. I am NOT a duck! I am a dog!" Duck proceeds to try and convince Fox of his doggie-ness. He pees on the carpet, chews holes in Fox's clothes, and wakes Fox up with wet kisses. Well, Fox has to take Duck back to the farm because Foxes don't eat dogs and they don't keep pets. Fox is lonely when he gets back home though. He thinks about all the things he'll miss about Duck. Then, he sees something that Duck left behind - an egg!

This book is adorable!

Richie Partington says

Richie's Picks: **OUTFOXED** by Mike Twohy, Simon and Schuster, September 2013, 40p., ISBN: 978-1-4424-7392-4

"Oh I wanna be a dog
I wanna dig big holes

I wanna sniff French Poodles and Bassett Hounds
And pee on telephone poles."
-- Barry Louis Polisar

"Duck sniffs Fox's leg.
"You are mistaken, sir. I am NOT a DUCK!"
"Duck jumps up and down, slobbering on Fox's coat.
"I am a dog! SEE! A very friendly dog!"
"Duck jumps up and down and slobbers on Fox some more.
"Fox is confused.
"Duck sits. Looks adorable."

According to Wikipedia's "Duck Test" article, the origin of the saying "If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, quacks like a duck...then it's a duck" is attributed to James Whitcomb Riley, the nineteenth century children's poet who created Little Orphan Annie.

"Duck BARKS. 'BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! QUACK, oops! BARK!'"

This picture book -- which puts that old saying to the test -- is hysterical! When Fox breaks into the henhouse in the dark, he assumes that what he grabs and shoves into the pocket of his overcoat is a chicken. He'd thereafter is fully focused on evading dogs and hurtling fences to escape and make it back to his den. So he is a bit surprised to then pull a duck out of his pocket.

When he nevertheless decides that "a duck will do," Duck sets out to demonstrate, through any number of obnoxious canine behaviors -- which we all can recognize and appreciate -- that she is, in fact, a dog. She is so successful in being a canine pain-in-the-butt that Fox is not only persuaded that he has a dog on his hands, but he comes to the further conclusion that he does not have time for dealing with the consequences of being a dog owner ("Foxes need sleep. We don't have time to mend socks and clean carpets."). Fox then dumps Duck back over the fence from where she came.

As Fox heads home to his den, he is actually contemplating how much he will miss his dog. Then he sits down in his easy chair and sees the egg in the corner.

While preschoolers will surely be rolling on the floor to see Duck being a dog, the multitude of possibilities for mining the sophisticated humor, and expanding on the important concept of inductive reasoning, makes this a book that will play well all the way up through the elementary grades.

Richie Partington, MLIS
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Elaine says

A funny, funny children's book—not just for little ones, but for almost anyone. As one Goodreads reviewer

wrote, not just for 3–10, but for 3–100. She was right. Delightful, high-energy drawings animate the antics of the clever duck and the duped fox. For many years, I've enjoyed the author's cartoons in *The New Yorker*. The same wry humor, made accessible to children, infuses this story. Love it!

Stephanie Crowther says

Funny story with fun illustrations. Could be used to show how sentence fragments can be used purposefully and effectively.

Donna Mork says

Fox goes to the hen house and steals a chicken. But it turns out to be a duck. He decides duck is good too. But duck says he's a dog, not a duck. He barks and wags his tail and chews his socks. The next day fox takes the "dog" back to the farm. He comes home thinking he'll miss the dog, then he sees an egg in the corner. AN EGG!!! Uh oh!!!

Mel Ann says

"Get along little doggie." Way to outsmart that fox.

Michelle says

I actually felt a little bad for the fox when he regretted his decision to bring the duck back.
