

“The Fox and the Bear”

OR

“Bear Goes Fishing”

A Tale From Finland

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Theatre/ Youth Theatre Class - Fall 2008)

Narrator

Bear

Fox

Woman

People of the village

Narrator: Once upon a time, far far away in northern Finland the bear woke up in the middle of his winter sleep. He felt very hungry and decided to get up and find something to eat before going back to sleep. He walked through the forest and came to the lake where he saw the fox that had a large amount of delicious looking fish.

Bear: Hyvaa huomenta fox!

Fox: Good morning to you, too.

Bear: You don't mind if I eat some..?(starts eating without waiting for an answer)

Fox: Well actually...

Bear: Mmmmmm! I'm so hungry!

Narrator: The fox didn't like the way that bear always thought he could do anything because he bigger and stronger than others.

Fox: (to audience) He is always so rude. He needs a lesson.

Bear: Slurp slurp! Where did you get these?

Fox: (Has an idea of how to trick the bear) I went fishing last night. There's a big avanto in the lake.

Bear: Avanto..?

Fox: Big hole in the ice. I just put my tail into the hole and waited. The fish were very hungry and in the morning I had one in each hair of my beautiful tail.

Bear: Do you think I could catch some fish too?

Fox: Sure!

Narrator: The fox showed the Bear where the ice hole was. In those days the bear had a very long and beautiful tail. He put his tail into the hole.

Fox: Remember. Don't move before morning. Hyvaa yota.

Bear: Good night to you, too.

Narrator: The bear waited and waited. He remembered fox's words and didn't move an inch during the whole night. He was very bored, but he didn't move because he wanted to have lot of fish. He felt a weird itching in his tail and was sure that the fish were getting into his tail trap.

The fox watched from the bushes and laughed. In the morning the fox saw that the bear must be stuck in the hole. He decided to play another trick on the bear. He went to the house whose owner had made the ice hole. The woman in the house was making breakfast when she heard the loud voice outside.

Fox: Wake up everybody! It's an emergency! The bear is at the lake and messed up your ice hole!

Woman: Oh dear! (Takes his shovel or some other kitchen utensil and goes outside) Wake up everybody! It's an emergency! The bear is at the lake and has messed up our ice hole!

Narrator: All the people in the village heard the message and came to help. (Group of people comes with silly weapons like spoons and other house items.) They all went to the lake. The bear saw the group of angry people coming and realized that the fox had cheated him. He tried to run away but he couldn't because his tail had frozen in to the ice. He was stuck. The bear pulled and pulled himself roaring to the people (Bear roars!) . Finally his tail snapped (everyone make one clap sound!)and poor bear ran fast into the woods.

Since then, the bear has had only a short bobtail and he has tried to be more polite to other animals.

And that was "The End" or as they say in Finland , "Loppu!"