



**Teachers Notes –  
Fox and Bird  
by Edwina Wyatt  
Illustrated by Alice  
Lindstrom**

**Synopsis**

Fox is desperate to gain Bird's affection, and does everything she orders him to do. But when Bird goes too far and Fox stops caring about her, Bird goes to just as great lengths to regain Fox's admiration.

An exquisite story of friendship by the inimitable Edwina Wyatt and emerging illustrator Alice Lindstrom.

**About the Author and Illustrator**

**Edwina Wyatt** grew up in Sydney, Australia.

She worked as a lawyer and a high school teacher before becoming a writer of books for children. Her books with Hardie Grant Egmont include *Fox & Bird*, *Together Always* (CBCA Notable), *In the Evening* (CBCA Notable) and *PONK!* Edwina lives on the south coast of NSW with her husband and two children.

**Alice Lindstrom** studied Philosophy, graduating with a Bachelor of Humanities from the University of Adelaide. Shortly afterward, Alice completed a Bachelor of Design at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). After working as a theatre designer in Sydney, Alice returned to the University of Adelaide and completed a Masters of Museum Studies and a Graduate Diploma in Art History. Alice works in paper collage, using cut and paste techniques, painting and preparing the paper beforehand, before cutting and assembling it to create textured and painterly collages. Alice's aesthetic draws on diverse influences, including mid-century illustration and design, folk art as well as Modern art movements.

**Before Reading**

- Ask students to predict what they think this story will be about.
- Do they get a 'feeling' about the tone of this story from the colour palette of the book cover?
- Ask students to think about what they know about foxes and birds, what might be the relationship between the two in this story?

### **Reading the blurb**

- Why might a Fox want to get a Bird's attention?
- What does the phrase – 'tables are turned' mean?
- How might Bird have gone too far? What might Bird have done to upset Fox?

### **While reading**

- Ask students to think about why Fox might be lonely
- Why might Bird be bossy? What might have happened to make Bird behave this way?
- Why might Fox be willing to do what Bird is asking of him?
- How do students think Bird's commands might be making Fox feel?
- Ask students to think about why Fox might be behaving the way he is toward Bird
- Do students feel that Fox is being fair to Bird?
- Does Bird deserve to be treated this way after she was mean to Fox?
- Is Fox doing the right thing or the wrong thing?
- Do students think that Fox and Bird have a good friendship?

### **Follow up activities**

- Ask students to think about what makes a good friend. Using post it notes or scrap paper, ask students to write down a quality they think makes a good friend and stick it on the board to share with the class
- Ask students to rewrite the story of Fox and Bird as a healthy friendship
- Ask students to choose either Fox or Bird as a character and write a letter to the other character telling them how they feel about their behaviour toward them
- Ask students to research birds and try to identify what kind of bird - Bird might be
- Invite students to research foxes and share their findings with the class

### **Looking closely at the illustrations**

- Ask students to predict how they think the illustrations were created
- Invite students to re create their choice of image in other mediums beside collage
- Ask students to predict which season this story is set in
- Ask students to speculate on which country this story is set in and explain why they think this.