



LITERARY AND METHODOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE TALE "THE TIGER
AND THE FOX" FROM GRADE 2, PART 3 TEXTBOOK

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Annotation: *This article analyzes one of the Tajik folk tales — "The Tiger and the Fox", highlighting its artistic and educational value. The plot events in the tale, and the conflicts between characters reveal the opposition of intellect and strength, cunningness and simplicity. The article emphasizes the role of folk tales in developing students' thinking skills, their contribution to the school learning process, and is enriched with methodological approaches.*

Keywords: *Tajik folk tale, Tiger, Fox, cleverness, intellect, folk oral literature, methodology, 2nd grade, educational analysis.*

Folk tales are one of the most convenient and experiential literary sources for children. They reflect the wisdom, moral views, and life attitudes accumulated by the people over the years. Especially through tales involving animals, complex concepts are conveyed to children in a simple and memorable way. The tale "The Tiger and the Fox", included in Part 3 of the 2nd grade "Mother Tongue" textbook, is one of such exemplary works, where intellect is placed above strength.

Summary and sequence of events in the tale:

In the tale, the Fox enters a dense forest and unexpectedly encounters a Tiger. Frightened, the Fox runs but reaches a cliff. There, she pretends to be crying, and the Tiger asks her the reason. The Fox lies, saying that her father was very agile and could jump over large cliffs. Believing her words, the Tiger tries to test himself and falls into the cliff. Meanwhile, the Fox continues on her way.

Symbolic meanings through characters:

The characters in the tale have symbolic meanings. The Fox symbolizes agility and intelligence, someone who uses speech to escape difficult situations. She never loses her composure and can think critically. The Tiger, on the other hand, represents strength but also simplicity and gullibility. These two characters highlight the conflict between strength and intellect. The tale encourages children to act wisely and assess situations correctly.

As an oral folklore product, the tale reflects the wisdom of the people. Traditionally, a strong animal — the Tiger — faces off with the agile and cunning Fox. This technique in folk tales always glorifies intelligence and wise thinking. That is why the Fox always wins. The tale helps students understand that while being strong is good, acting wisely is always more important.





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When teaching this tale to primary school students, the focus should not only be on understanding the storyline but also on analyzing it, expressing opinions, and understanding cause-effect relationships. Teachers can use the following methodological approaches:

- Initial discussion: Starting the lesson with the question "Is it more important to be strong or smart?" encourages students to think.

Expressive reading: Reading the tale with proper intonation and emotion helps students retain it better.

- Role-playing: Acting out the characters of the Fox and the Tiger helps students understand their inner meanings.

- Reflection: Asking open-ended questions like "What would you do if you were in the Fox's place?" encourages independent thinking.

This tale is valuable not only for its events but also for its moral conclusions. The story teaches children:

- the power of spoken word;
- the consequences of lying;
- the dangers of naivety;
- the importance of cleverness and quick-wittedness;
- that intellect is more important than mere strength.

These ideas help children choose the right path in life situations and understand that every decision has consequences.

As a "Tajik folk tale", "The Tiger and the Fox" is not only an interesting story for young learners but also a source of life lessons. Through the tale, children learn that it is more important to act wisely than just being strong. With its simplicity, conciseness, and artistic expression, the tale plays an important role in developing 2nd graders' thinking and strengthening their moral education. Teachers can use this tale to develop students' oral speech, figurative thinking, and analytical skills.

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