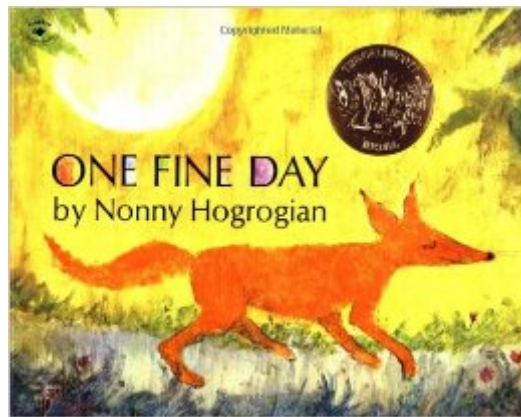


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# One Fine Day



## Synopsis

Awarded the Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished picture book of 1971 "One fine day a fox traveled through the great forest. When he reached the other side he was very thirsty." The jaunty red fox stole milk from an old farm woman, lost his tail under the annoyed woman's knife, and spent the day bargaining to get it back. This humorous retelling of a favorite Armenian folktale is a story small children will follow and "read along" with ease.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1080L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Aladdin; Reprint edition (September 1, 1974)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0020436203

ISBN-13: 978-0020436201

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (37 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #193,609 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > European](#) #153 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals >](#)

[Foxes & Wolves](#) #1545 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

This book won the Caldecott Medal as the best illustrated children's story of 1971. The vivid colors will brighten your day! The story itself is a retelling of an Armenian folk tale. The book is exceptional for the fable, the moral it tells, and the dynamic illustrations that turn the fox's frustration into an adventure for the reader. "One fine day a fox traveled through a great forest. When he reached the other side he was very thirsty." "He saw a pail of milk that an old woman had set down while she gathered wood for her fire." "Before she noticed the fox, he had lapped up most of the milk." "The woman became so angry that she grabbed her knife and chopped off his tail . . . ." Thus, the story begins. The fox begs for the old woman to sew his tail back on. Otherwise, "all my friends will laugh at me." "Give me back my milk," she said, "and I'll give you back your tail." The fox finds a cow who is willing to help, but wants grass in return. The fox asks a field for some grass, and the field asks

for some water. The fox goes to the stream, which tells him to get a jug for the water. From there, the fox finds a fair maiden who has a jug, but wants a blue bead. The fox finds a peddler who has a blue bead, but wants an egg. An hen offers an egg in exchange for some grain. The fox finds a miller who has grain."The miller was a good man and felt sorry for the fox."With the grain given to him by the miller, the fox proceeds to do all of his barter. In the end, the old woman "carefully sewed his tail in place, and off he ran to join his friends . . . ."As you can see, the language is simple so you will find this book helpful in assisting your child to learn to read around ages 4-6. The illustrations carefully match the words, which will help remind your child which words are on the page. The book is valuable for introducing a number of important themes. For example, if you do something wrong, people will be angry. They may even punish you in some way. Further, most people want something in exchange even if they are willing to help. Beyond that, even those who want to help may not be able to (the stream could not transport the water it would give freely). Most importantly, without the kindness of a stranger (the miller) the fox would have been out of luck . . . even with all of his efforts. After you finish the story, I suggest that you also ask your child what lessons are here. Children are famous for spotting unintended ones as well as fundamental truths that adults easily overlook. Have a great discussion! Seek balance in all that you do, especially when you redress an imbalance . . . whether caused by you or others! Don't forget to play the role of the miller!

In this story, the fox has his tail cut off by a woman who is angry because the fox drank her milk. The fox asks for his tail back and the woman says only if the fox returns her milk. Herein lies the tale. The fox embarks on a journey taking him to the cow who will give him milk only if he is fed, which leads the fox to a field who will give up his grass only if he receives water, which leads the fox to the ....and the tale goes on and on. The fox does eventually get his tail back. My 3 year old son is perplexed by this story and he listens with rapt attention. It is a good bedtime story because the story builds on itself and the phrases are repeated again and again and again. This book also won a Caldecott Medal for illustration. Recommended.

Most kids of "picture book age" are attracted to cumulative tales like THE OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY or THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT because of the repetitive patterns and the easy logic to the simple plots. ONE FINE DAY is another great example of a cumulative tale. The basic story involves a talking fox who drinks an old woman's milk. In a rather violent move that doesn't seem to bother most kids the woman bloodlessly cuts off the fox's tail and refuses to "sew it

back on" until the fox gives her back the milk. The now tail free but still resilient fox goes through the forest and tries to barter some milk from a cow who will give him milk if he gives her grass, a field that will yield grass if the fox will give it water, a stream that will give water if the fox brings a jug and so on. Our fox hero is finally triumphant and brings the replacement milk to the old woman who true to her word "carefully sews his tail in place" and all ends happily as the fox "ran to join his friends on the other side of the forest."The illustrations are appropriate and well convey the setting which appears to be Eastern Europe in a past century. Kids seem to like the reassuring ending to the fox's problem as well as the classic repetition of the folk tale.

This is an absolutely wonderful book for children based on an Armenian folktale. It gives American children a view of how stories are both alike and different in different cultures. The colorful illustrations add so much feeling and delight to the story itself. It makes a wonderful gift.

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