How Bear Lost His Tail

Long ago, Bear had a long, shiny tail. He was proud of his tail and bragged, “No other tail in the forest can compare with mine!”

Fox got tired of Bear’s bragging. One winter day, Fox went to a frozen lake and sat by a hole in the ice. When he heard Bear coming, Fox said loudly to himself, “My tail just isn’t shiny enough to catch that juicy fish under the ice.” Then he hid behind a tree.

“My shiny tail could catch that fish!” Bear thought, licking his lips. He dipped his tail into the icy water. While waiting, Bear fell asleep.

Fox watched Bear sleep. Then Fox crept up behind him and shouted as loud as he could, “Wake up, Bear! The fish is biting your tail!” Bear woke with such a start that his frozen tail snapped clean off.

Answer the questions about the text.

1. How do you know this text is a folktale?

2. What problem does Fox face?

3. How does Fox solve his problem?

4. What do you think the lesson of this text is?