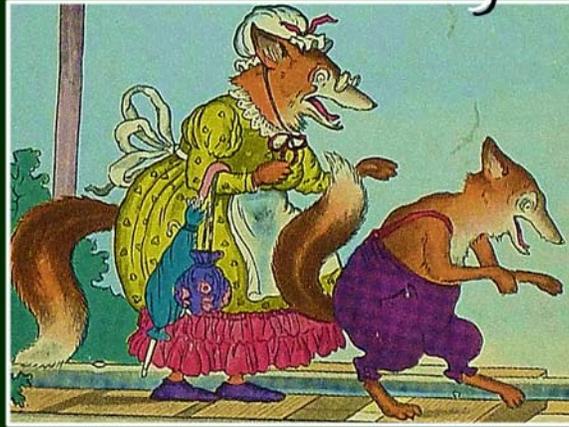


# The Adventures of Reddy Fox



## and the Green Forest Folks

**C. Edward Wheaton**

Adapted from the stories by Thornton Burgess  
Illustration by Harrison Cady

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P.O. Box 1401  
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## The Adventures of Reddy Fox and the Green Forest Folks

**COMEDY.** Adapted from the stories by Thornton Burgess. Reddy Fox thinks he's the smartest creature in the Green Forest, but he meets his match when a cunning, fast-talking, hungry coyote arrives looking for food. Granny Fox warns Reddy that Mr. Coyote will get him into trouble, but Reddy ignores her advice and assists Mr. Coyote in stealing dog food and trying to catch Peter Rabbit. When Mr. Coyote's scheme to steal a chicken out of a box trap goes awry, Reddy must convince the other forest animals to free him from the trap before the farmer's dog arrives. But the other forest animals, sick of Reddy's endless bragging and pranks, aren't sure they want to! Easy to stage and perfect for touring.

**Performance Time:** Approximately 45-60 minutes.



Thornton Burgess (1874-1965)

### About the Story

Author Thornton Burgess was born and raised in Sandwich, MA, where his childhood experiences led to his love for nature and inspired him to write his much-loved children's books and his syndicated newspaper column, *Bedtime Stories* (1912-1960). As a youth, Burgess worked for a landowner whose woodlands and wetlands served as the inspiration for the Old Briar Patch and the Smiling Pool settings in his stories. After Burgess's wife died a year after giving birth, he began writing bedtime stories to entertain his infant son. Burgess's first book *Old Mother West Wind* (1910) includes many characters that appear in his later works. A lifelong wildlife and nature conservationist, Burgess worked to pass laws protecting wildlife and to establish land conservation programs. After Burgess's death, his Hampden, MA, home was purchased by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and is now the Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary. In addition, the Thornton W. Burgess Society established the Green Briar Nature Center in East Sandwich, MA.

## CHARACTERS

(1 M, 7 F, 10 flexible, opt. extras)  
(With doubling: 1 M, 6 F, 6 flexible)

- REDDY FOX:** Fox who brags that he is the smartest animal in the Green Forest; male.
- GRANNY FOX:** Reddy's grandma, a sly, old fox, who warns Reddy to stay away from Mr. Coyote; female.
- MR./MRS. COYOTE:** Cunning, fast-talking, hungry coyote who has arrived in the Green Forest looking for food; flexible.
- PRICKLY PORKY:** Porcupine that Granny Fox tries to trick into scaring off Mr. Coyote; flexible.
- JIMMY/JULIE SKUNK:** Skunk who likes to play pranks on Reddy Fox; flexible.
- PETER/PETUNIA RABBIT:** Wise old rabbit; flexible.
- JOHNNY/JOANIE CHUCK:** Woodchuck who is sick of Reddy Fox's bragging and pranks; covered in dirt; flexible.
- HENRY/HENRIETTA HEDGE HOG:** Hedge hog who is sick of Reddy Fox's pranks; flexible.
- CHATTERER SQUIRREL:** Squirrel who hates it when Reddy Fox pulls his tail; flexible.
- DANNY/MANDY MEADOW MOUSE:** Mouse who is tired of Reddy Fox sneaking up and scaring him; flexible.
- JEREMY/JENNY PACK RAT:** Pack Rat who always carries a sack over his shoulder; flexible.
- BILLY/BILLIE POSSUM:** Young possum; flexible.
- MRS. COTTONTAIL:** Jack rabbit; female.
- MRS. SQUIRREL:** Squirrel; female.
- MRS. WOODCHUCK:** Woodchuck; female.
- MRS. RACCOON:** Raccoon; female.
- MRS. POSSUM:** Possum; female.
- MRS. JACK RABBIT:** Coyote tries to make a meal of her; non-speaking; female.
- EXTRAS (Opt.):** As other Green Forest Animals.

## Options for Doubling

**MRS. COTTONTAIL/MRS. JACK RABBIT** (female)  
**MRS. SQUIRREL/CHATTERER SQUIRREL** (flexible)  
**MRS. WOODCHUCK/JOANIE CHUCK** (flexible)  
**MRS. RACCOON/PRICKLY PORCUPINE** (flexible)  
**MRS. POSSUM/BILLIE POSSUM** (flexible)

## Setting

The Green Forest.

## Sets

The sets may be as simple or elaborate as your budget allows. However, simple props and backdrops allow for quick set changes.

**Green Forest.** Backdrop of a forest. There is a tree stump CS and bushes large enough to hide behind. There is a freestanding tree.

**Reddy and Granny Fox's den.** There is a straw bed and tree stumps or chairs to sit on.

**Peter Rabbit's burrow.** A backdrop of a rabbit burrow.

**Green Meadows.** A backdrop of a meadow.

**Mrs. Cottontail's burrow.** A backdrop of a rabbit burrow.

**Smiling Pool.** A forest backdrop. The pool may be represented by blue paper, a blanket, a tarp, etc.

**Laughing Brook.** A forest backdrop. A blue blanket, etc. may be used to represent water, opt.

## Synopsis of Scenes

- Scene 1:** The Green Forest.
- Scene 2:** Reddy and Granny Fox's den.
- Scene 3:** Peter Rabbit's burrow, the hollow.
- Scene 4:** The Green Meadows.
- Scene 5:** The Green Forest.
- Scene 6:** Reddy and Granny Fox's den.
- Scene 7:** The Green Forest, a secluded area.
- Scene 8:** The Green Forest.
- Scene 9:** The Green Forest, a secluded area.
- Scene 10:** The Green Forest.
- Scene 11:** Mrs. Cottontail's burrow.
- Scene 12:** The Smiling Pool.
- Scene 13:** The Green Forest.
- Scene 14:** The Laughing Brook.
- Scene 15:** The Green Forest.
- Scene 16:** Reddy and Granny Fox's den.
- Scene 17:** The Green Forest.
- Scene 18:** The hollow.
- Scene 19:** The Green Forest.

## Props

Sack, for Jeremy Packrat

Chicken feathers

Twig

Fish

Radishes

Basket, for Mrs. Jack Rabbit

Dog food dish

Piece of tree bark

Box trap (has bars and a spring door that can be lifted up on one end and is large enough for Reddy Fox to fit inside)

Stuffed chicken (for trap bait)

Cloth bag, for Mr. Coyote

## Sound Effects

Twig snapping

Sound of hound dog baying

Sound of trap door snapping shut

Female child's voice (for Mrs. Squirrel's youngster)

"He's a fox,  
and being a fox,  
he can't do anything else  
but be a fox."

—Peter Rabbit

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The Green Forest. Peter Rabbit, Danny Meadow Mouse, Chatterer Squirrel and Henry Hedge Hog are gathered. Covered with dirt, Johnny Chuck enters.)

PETER RABBIT: Why, Johnny Chuck! What happened to you?!

JOHNNY CHUCK: (*Shaking off dirt.*) Ooooh! That Reddy Fox!

CHATTERER SQUIRREL: What about Reddy Fox?

JOHNNY CHUCK: That old rascal rolled a huge stone in front of my door, so I had to dig my way out of my house!  
(*Brushing dirt off.*) One of these days, Reddy Fox is going to get his!

HENRY HEDGE HOG: How do you know it was Reddy?

JOHNNY CHUCK: Who else would have played such a trick?

PETER RABBIT: That Reddy Fox is certainly a pest.

DANNY MEADOW MOUSE: He's a dreadful bully. He's always trying to catch or scare to death those who are smaller than himself.

CHATTERER SQUIRREL: He is forever sneaking up behind me and pulling my tail!

JOHNNY CHUCK: And he is such a braggart. He thinks he is the smartest animal in the Green Forest.

CHATTERER SQUIRREL: Reddy Fox's getting so puffed up that pretty soon he won't be able to see his own feet.

(*Pause.*)

DANNY MEADOW MOUSE: The Green Forest and Green Meadows would be better off without him...a lot better off.

HENRY HEDGE HOG: If he doesn't watch out, he is going to get so smart, he will step right into a trap. (*Looks off.*) Oh, oh! Look who's coming! It's Reddy!

DANNY MEADOW MOUSE: Let's get out of here!

PETER RABBIT: No, wait.

CHATTERER SQUIRREL: What for?

PETER RABBIT: I have an idea. Let's play a trick on old Reddy.

JOHNNY CHUCK: What kind of trick?

PETER RABBIT: I'll hide behind those bushes over there. You get him to start bragging.

CHATTERER SQUIRREL: That won't be hard.

*(Peter Rabbit hides in the bushes. Reddy Fox enters.)*

REDDY FOX: How's everyone this fine morning? *(No response.)* Well, Johnny Chuck, you look like you have been doing some digging! *(Laughs.)*

JOHNNY CHUCK: Very funny.

HENRY HEDGE HOG: I am surprised that you have strayed so far from your den today.

REDDY FOX: Why is it so surprising?

HENRY HEDGE HOG: Well, I heard from Sammy Jay that Farmer Brown's son was out hunting and he has Bowser with him.

REDDY FOX: And why should that worry me?

HENRY HEDGE HOG: Because he's hunting you.

REDDY FOX: Why, that smelly old hound couldn't catch me on his best day.

DANNY MEADOW MOUSE: Aren't you afraid of him?

REDDY FOX: Me? Naw! Nothin' scares me!

*(Peter Rabbit imitates Bowser. Terrified, Reddy lets out a "Yelp!" and runs off. Others laugh. Peter emerges from behind the bushes, laughing. Blackout.)*

**[END OF FREEVIEW]**