

4. The crow was so pleased with this flattering speech, that he began to croak, and let fall the bit of cheese which he had in his beak. The fox seized it at once, and ate it before the eyes of the crow, who, quite ashamed at having let himself be deceived by the false praises of the fox, vowed, but too late, that he would never be taken in again.

5. *Moral.*—The praises given to us by our enemies are just so many snares which they set in order to deceive us, and to seize our goods. Flatterers are very dangerous; we must always be on our guard against them.

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#### THE FROG AND THE OX.

1. A FROG having one day seen an ox which was passing in the meadow, thought that she might become as large as that animal. She made a great effort to puff out her wrinkled skin, and then asked her comrades if her body was beginning to be like that of the ox. They said, "No."

2. She then made new efforts to puff herself out more and more, and asked the frogs again if she was nearly equal to the size of the ox. They made her the same answer as the first time.

3. The frog did not for all that change her purpose; she still went on; but the last effort she made was so violent, that she burst on the spot.

4. *Moral.*—Little people often ruin themselves when they wish to be equal to great people, and to imitate them.

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#### THE TWO FOXES.

1. ONE night two foxes went quietly into a hen-house, and strangled the cock, the hens, and the chickens.