The Fox and the Rooster

One morning, a hungry fox trotted along looking for his breakfast. As he passed a farm, he heard a rooster crow. The fox licked his chops and looked around, hoping to sight the rooster. Finally he spied the bird sitting high in a tree.

“Good morning, friend!” the fox called out. “Come down and have a friendly chat with me!”

“Oh, I can’t do that,” replied the rooster. “You would eat me for sure.”

“You haven’t heard the news, then,” the fox said in a surprised tone. “All of us animals have agreed to live peacefully from now on. We aren’t allowed to eat one another anymore.”

The rooster did not answer. Instead, he began to look into the distance with great interest. He cocked his head as if he heard something, but the fox heard nothing. As a result, the fox became curious.

“What’s going on?” asked the fox. “What do you see? What do you hear?”

“Why, it’s a pack of wolves running this way. They must be coming for a friendly visit, just as you did,” said the rooster.

“Oh!” said the fox nervously. “Now that I’ve told you the news, I’ll just move along.”

“Why not stay and visit with all of us,” asked the rooster, “if what you say is true and all the animals are living in peace?”

“The word may not have gotten around to the wolves!” the fox said as he hurried away.
Answer the questions below.

1. Why did the fox become curious?
   A. He heard the wolves.
   B. He was looking for something to eat.
   C. The rooster looked into the distance.
   D. The rooster was in a tree.

2. What was the main conflict in the story?
   F. The fox wanted to eat the rooster.
   G. The rooster wanted to escape the wolves.
   H. The wolves wanted to eat the fox.
   J. The rooster wanted the fox to stay.

3. The rooster thought the fox was
   A. smart.
   B. friendly.
   C. angry.
   D. dishonest.

4. In this story, when does the rooster first begin to fool the fox?
   F. when the rooster sits by himself high in the tree
   G. when the rooster tips his head as if to hear better
   H. when the rooster says that the wolves are coming
   J. when the rooster invites the fox to stay and visit

5. Do you think wolves were really coming toward the rooster and the fox? Explain your answer.

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Common Core State Standards

Questions 1–4: Literature 1. Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says and when drawing inferences from the text.

Question 5: Literature 2. Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.