

## Bookfolio for **The Midnight Fox**

**Author:** [Betsy Byars](#)

**Publisher:** Story House Corporation

**ISBN:** 9991799222

**Recommended for:** [Grades 3-5](#)

**Classification:** Fiction

**Genre:** [Realistic Fiction](#)

**Story Summary:** This is the only chance Tommy's mother and father will have to go on a bike tour of Europe. Nine-year-old Tom dreads the two months he must spend at his Aunt Millie's farm. His parents, who love the outdoors, can't understand Tom's fear of animals or his distaste for outdoor life. Tommy agrees to leave his plastic world of model building and Petie, his best friend, to go to a farm with animals who he imagines will attack him. His outlook for the summer is very dismal until he sees a black fox. Then suddenly the summer on the farm takes on a new meaning. To Tom, the black fox is a most exciting and beautiful sight. He is enchanted by the black fox, and for several weeks he spends much of his time tracking it. One day the fox appears with her cub and Tom finds the fox's den. The whereabouts of the den is Tom's closely guarded secret until Uncle Fred, the hunter, discovers it and its contents, the black fox's lone surviving cub. Uncle Fred cages the cub in an effort to trap the mother fox who has been raiding Aunt Millie's turkey pen. Tom is stunned by the thought of his uncle killing the black fox and takes responsibility for releasing the baby fox from its wired prison, thus freeing the black fox and its cub.

**Read-aloud Recommendation:** "The Search," pages 80-89

**The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:  
R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing**

The Midnight Fox - Independent Activities	Skills
1. <b>A Memory</b> (Writing a story based on memory)	R , W
2. <b>Starting Point</b> (Finding sources for stories)	R , S
3. <b>First Impressions</b> (Writing from a character's point of view)	R , W
4. <b>A Brand-New _____!</b> (Imagining a discovery)	R , S
5. <b>"Fox with Baby at Midnight"</b> (Drawing a picture)	D
6. <b>The Red Fox</b> (Writing a report)	R , S , W
The Midnight Fox - Group Activities	Skills
1. <b>Many Sides of Life</b> (Discussing elements of realistic fiction)	S
2. <b>Similar Stories</b> (Comparing two stories)	S
3. <b>Good Pet Owners</b> (Developing a questionnaire)	R , W
4. <b>Take Five</b> (Discussing a story idea)	S , W
5. <b>Everybody Has Fears</b> (Discussing a story idea)	S
6. <b>"Let's Talk About..."</b> (Discussing the story)	L , S

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