In the present work, I would like to compare the vocabulary definition of the noun “fox” with the characteristics given by DH Lawrence to the animal into the short story “the fox”.

The vocabulary (Paperback Oxford dictionary) definition says: “it is an animal with a pointed muzzle, bushy tail, and a reddish coat”. You should find an additional shade of meaning, indeed is common to attribute the noun “fox” to somebody who is particularly sly or crafty. This multiple layers of significance of the noun “fox” are functional to have a full understanding of the text . DH Lawrence, connotes the fox in a “translated” way, not only from the denotative and objective point of view. Indeed he presents the animal as *the greater evil than any other* a *demon*: this makes possible an anticipation of the reader about the role of the fox into the whole novel. The intelligent reader understands the fox will be the pretext of March’s and Banford difficulties of their farm life.

Also interesting to notice is that DH Laurence gives to the fox a male gender: you can see the animal references are made by the use of the male subject pronoun “he”. This personifies the animal that becomes representative for the male gender. Therefore the intelligent reader is curious in finding out which characteristics DH his Lawrence gives to the fox in order to drive image. The fox exasperates both ladies killing their fowl, he is so sly and he seems to circumvent them deliberately. As the reader can notice from the reading, there are many aspects of the vocabulary definition here but DH Lawrence uses directly the animal to talk, to refer to something/somebody else; he speaks metaphorically.

Then the fox is compared with a serpent. The comparison recalls into the intelligent reader’s mind a Bible episode when Eva is tempted to eat the apple from the tree of the knowledge by the serpent. The serpent stands for (the) “forbidden”, this is the reason why March is so attracted by him: female are generally attracted by what is difficult to obtain.

Last but not least there are references of the fox eyes and his brush (white and red ). Red is the colour of passion or blood; in my opinion it is the colour that better synthesize the short story where themes of passion such as sexual desire and war are developed.