Making a prediction is guessing what happened next.

Granny Fox Gives Reddy a Scare
By Thornton W. Burgess

Reddy Fox lived with Granny Fox in the Green Meadows. Granny Fox was the wisest, slyest fox in all the countryside, and she thought it was time that Reddy started to learn some things that every fox should know. So she taught him how to steal Farmer John’s chickens without waking Bowser the Hound. And she taught him all kinds of ways to fool a dog.

Today Granny Fox was taking Reddy through the Green Forest. Reddy had never been that far from home, and he wondered where they were going. They came to a railroad track, and trotted along on it for a while until they came to a long bridge. At the edge of the bridge, Reddy looked down at the river far below. It made him feel dizzy. When he looked up, Granny Fox was running lightly across the bridge.

1. Use what has happened in the story so far to guess what will happen next. Circle the letter of the prediction you choose.

   A. Reddy takes a deep breath, and runs after Granny Fox.
   B. Reddy is too afraid to go across the bridge.
   C. Reddy falls through the bridge, and into the river.
“Come across,” Granny Fox called to Reddy. But Reddy was afraid. He was afraid to put one food on that long bridge. He was afraid he would fall through it and into the water below. Granny Fox ran back to him. She sat down beside him. “Shame on you,” she said. “What are you afraid of? Just don’t look down. Come on. Just follow me.”

But Reddy couldn’t do it. He just sat there beside Granny and let out a little whimper. Suddenly, Granny Fox sprang to her feet, as if in great fright.

“Bowser the Hound, Reddy! Come, Reddy, come!” And she started across the bridge as fast as she could go.

2. Use what has happened in the story so far to guess what will happen next. Circle the letter of the prediction you choose.

A. Reddy is still too afraid, so Granny comes back and carries him across.

B. Reddy runs away from the bridge, and hides in the forest.

C. Reddy doesn’t stop to think, he just runs across the bridge.

Reddy didn’t stop to look. He didn’t stop to think. His one idea was to get away from Bowser the Hound. “Wait, Granny! Wait!” he cried, and started after her as fast as he could run. Before he knew it, he was on the other side. He looked around to see where Bowser the Hound might be, but he was nowhere to be seen. Could he have fallen off the bridge?

3. Use what has happened in the story so far to see if you can guess the ending. Write your prediction here.

Ask your parent or tutor to use the Answer Key to read the ending of the story.
Answer Key

1. B

2. C

3. Here is the ending of the story:

   “Where is Bowser the Hound?” cried Reddy.
   “Why, he is home in Farmer Brown’s yard,” replied Granny Fox.

   Reddy stared at her for a minute. Then he began to understand. Granny Fox had simply scared him into running across the bridge. He felt silly, very silly indeed.

   “Now we’ll run back again, said Granny Fox. And this time Reddy did.