

Name: _____ Class: _____

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

By Aesop
620-560 B.C.

Aesop was a slave and story-teller who was believed to have lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 560 BCE. This story is part of his collection of tales known as "Aesop's Fables" which have influenced children's literature and modern storytelling culture. As you read, find evidence to answer this question: What is the author's message to children?

- [1] There once was a shepherd boy who was bored as he sat on the hillside watching the village sheep. To amuse himself he took a great breath and sang out, "Wolf! Wolf! The Wolf is chasing the sheep!"



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The villagers came running up the hill to help the boy drive the wolf away. But when they arrived at the top of the hill, they found no wolf. The boy laughed at the sight of their angry faces.

"Don't cry 'wolf', shepherd boy," said the villagers, "when there's no wolf!" They went grumbling back down the hill.

Later, the boy sang out again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" To his naughty delight, he watched the villagers run up the hill to help him drive the wolf away.

- [5] When the villagers saw no wolf they sternly said, "Save your frightened song for when there is really something wrong! Don't cry 'wolf' when there is NO wolf!"

But the boy just grinned and watched them go grumbling down the hill once more.

Later, he saw a REAL wolf prowling about his flock. Alarmed, he leaped to his feet and sang out as loudly as he could, "Wolf! Wolf!"

But the villagers thought he was trying to fool them again, and so they didn't come.

At sunset, everyone wondered why the shepherd boy hadn't returned to the village with their sheep. They went up the hill to find the boy. They found him weeping.

- [10] "There really was a wolf here! The flock has scattered! I cried out, "Wolf!" Why didn't you come?" An old man tried to comfort the boy as they walked back to the village.

"We'll help you look for the lost sheep in the morning," he said, putting his arm around the youth, "Nobody believes a liar...even when he is telling the truth!"

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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. Why did the boy call out “wolf”? Cite evidence in your answer. [RL.3]

2. Why did the villagers not come when there actually was a wolf? Support your answer with evidence from the text. [RL.4]

3. What is the message or moral of this story? Support your answer with evidence. [RL.2]

4. How does the theme of power emerge in this story? Who is given power? What happens? [RL.2]
