

## **The Boy Who Cried “Wolf!”**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Fiction**

Source: Public Domain, adapted by Center for Urban Education, may be copied with citation.

There was once a boy who lived in a village up in the mountains. His family owned many sheep. The boy had a job, and that job was to watch the sheep. If a wolf came near, he needed to call for help. His sheep stayed on a hill near the village where he watched them every day.

One day, he thought of a trick he could play on the people who lived in the village. He was bored, so he thought this would be a way to have fun. He ran toward the village crying out loudly for help.

He shouted, “Wolf! Wolf! Come and help! The wolves are at my lambs! The wolves are trying to eat them!”

There were many villagers in the town. They heard him crying and thought that they had to help. So, the kind villagers left their work and ran to the field to help him. They would try to help him chase away the wolves and protect his lambs. But when the villagers got there, the boy laughed at them. There was no wolf there. He just wanted to watch them come running! He thought it was funny.

Then another day the boy tried the same trick. Once again, the villagers came running to help him out, and once again the boy laughed at them.

Then, one day, a wolf really did come and it started chasing the lambs. In great fright, the boy ran for help. “Wolf! Wolf!” he screamed. “There is a wolf! Help! Please! Help! Please!”

All the villagers heard him, but this time they did not come. They thought he was pulling another mean trick. They had learned their lesson and did not need to be laughed at again. So, no one paid attention to him and the shepherd-boy lost all his sheep –they all ran away.

When people in the village found out what had happened, they were sorry, but they told the boy it was his fault. That is the kind of thing that happens to people who lie. Even when they tell the truth, no one believes them. People are just so used to their lies.

## Analyze and Infer Author's Point of View and Purpose - Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

*Choose the best answer for each question.*

1. Why does the writer tell you how the boy "cried wolf"?

- a. to tell the story
- b. to show what kind of boy he was
- c. to tell how he lied
- d. to tell how dangerous wolves are

3. Why did the writer have people not come the last time the boy cried wolf?

- a. to show they were mean
- b. to show the boy lied
- c. to show it is bad to lie
- d. to show that the boy was mean

2. Why did the writer have the people come to help the boy at first?

- a. to show people are good
- b. to show people are foolish
- c. to show how the boy fooled them
- d. to show how the people worried

4. How does the writer feel about the boy?

- a. He likes him a lot.
- b. He thinks he is funny.
- c. He thinks he is too young.
- d. He thinks he is not good.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Why do you think the writer wrote this story?*

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### **TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking**

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	a	c	d

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.  
To tell people they should not lie.