

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Boy Who Cried Wolf

By Aesop  
620-560 B.C.

*Aesop was a storyteller who lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 560 BCE. This story is part of his collection of tales known as "Aesop's Fables," which did not survive in writing but were passed down by people retelling them. They have deeply influenced children's literature and modern storytelling culture. As you read, take notes on the details in the text that shape the main character, and how readers can learn from him.*

- [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!"

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.



*"Romania; the boy who cried wolf" by Kashfi Halford is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0.*

"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 first call out “wolf” in paragraph 1? [RL.2]
  - A. He was afraid
  - B. He was bored
  - C. He wanted to see what he could get away with
  - D. He was practicing
  
2. In the end of the story, why didn’t the villagers come help the boy chase off the wolf? [RL.2]
  - A. They were mad at him
  - B. They thought he deserved his fate
  - C. They didn’t believe him
  - D. They were tired from running back and forth all day
  
3. PART A: How does the boy’s relationship with the villagers change over time? [RL.3]
  - A. At first, the villagers support the boy, but by the end, they lose their trust in him
  - B. At first, the boy disrespects the villagers, but in the end, he gains their trust
  - C. In the beginning, the boy works with the villagers to protect the sheep, but in the end, he is left all alone
  - D. At first, the villagers love the boy, but in the end they refuse to support him
  
4. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
  - A. “When the villagers saw no wolf they sternly said...” (Paragraph 5)
  - B. “But the villagers thought he was trying to fool them again...” (Paragraph 8)
  - C. “I cried out, ‘Wolf!’ Why didn’t you come?” (Paragraph 10)
  - D. “We’ll help you look for the lost sheep in the morning,’ he said...” (Paragraph 11)

5. Explain the line, “Nobody believes a liar...even when he is telling the truth!” [RL.2]

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