

The Boy Who Cried

Wolf

an Aesop fable

1 Long ago, a boy sat watching a farmer's sheep. He was bored, so he decided to play a trick. "Wolf! Wolf!" he shouted. "A wolf is chasing the sheep!"

2 The villagers came running, but instead of a wolf, they found the boy laughing. "There really isn't any wolf! I just wanted to fool you," he said.

3 The angry villagers returned to the village.

4 However, the boy quickly grew bored again. "Wolf!" he shouted. "A wolf is chasing the sheep!"

5 Again, the villagers came running, and they were furious to find that the boy had tricked them a second time.

6 At the end of the day, the boy saw a real wolf. "Wolf!" he shouted. "There's a wolf after the sheep!" But no one came, and the boy ran to the village crying.

7 "There was a wolf, and no one came!" he said.

"We didn't believe you," the villagers said. "No one believes a liar, even when he tells the truth."

Close Reader Habits

Which events help you figure out the central message of the story? **Underline** words and sentences that tell what the villagers do each time the boy cries "Wolf!"



Rereading the story will help you figure out the lesson the character learns.

Think

- 1 Why does the boy shout “Wolf!” the first time?
 - A He thinks he sees a wolf chasing the sheep.
 - B He hopes he can get a real wolf to come.
 - C He wants to play a joke on the villagers.
 - D He feels afraid watching the sheep by himself.

- 2 What do the villagers do when the boy shouts “Wolf!” the second time?
 - A They get angry at the boy for tricking them again.
 - B They laugh at being fooled twice by the boy’s trick.
 - C They look all over for a wolf but cannot find it.
 - D They don’t come because they don’t believe him.

Talk

- 3 Reread the story. Why don’t the villagers believe the boy at the end? Talk about the answer with your partner and look at the important events you underlined in the story.

Write

- 4 **Short Response** Use details from the story to answer the question below. Write your answer in the space on page 127.

What is the central message of the story?

HINT Look for the important event that happens at the end of the story.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 125.

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4 Short Response Use details from the story to answer the question below.

HINT Look for the important event that happens at the end of the story.

What is the central message of the story?

Check Your Writing

- Did you read the question carefully?
- Can you say the question in your own words?
- Did you use proof from the text in your answer?
- Are your ideas in a good, clear order?
- Did you answer in full sentences?
- Did you check your spelling, capital letters, and periods?

