

STORY GUIDE

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Original story by: Aesop
Read by: Marc Thompson



morals and themes

Honesty, Responsibility

general comprehension questions

- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the characters?
- Who is your favorite character and why?
- Which character don't you like and why?
- What are the problems the characters face?
- How do they solve these problems?
- How does the story end?
- What lesson does this story teach you?

discussion questions

- What was the job of the little shepherd boy?
- What did he do to make the other townspeople upset? Why were they upset?
- Why do you think he decided to cry "wolf" when there was no wolf?
- How do you think the little shepherd boy felt when no one came to help after the wolf attacked his flock?
- Do you think the shepherd boy learned his lesson? What do you think he can do now to show people he won't lie anymore?

extension questions

- What other stories does this remind you of?
- How does this story relate to your own life?
- Write an alternate ending for the story.
- Write your own version of what happens next.

research activity

Use the internet or library to research shepherds.

- What tools or animals do shepherds use to protect their flock?
- Can you find any examples of famous shepherds?
- Are there still shepherds around today?

notes on this adaptation

Though Aesop's Fables typically favor animal characters with human traits, "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," like other Aesop stories, uses a character whose personality is universally known to impart its lesson—in this case, the mischievous shepherd boy who skirts responsibility. In the tradition of other Aesop characters, this story is also known as "The Shepard Boy and the Wolf."