



## The Boy who cried Wolf

A young boy gets a job with a shepherd looking after his flock of sheep and each day he takes them up into the hills to graze. If he sees a wolf he is to ring the bell he has been given and shout 'Wolf!'

Soon the boy is feeling bored: the days are long and there is no-one to talk to. So he decides to pretend there is a wolf. He rings the bell and shouts 'Wolf!' and the men from the village come running with their guns. The boy tells them the wolf has already run off and the men are pleased with the boy and pat him on the back.

A few days later the boy is feeling bored again and decides to cry 'Wolf!' once more. This time when the men arrive and discover no wolf they are unimpressed and the boy worries that they don't believe him.

Shortly after the boy is minding the sheep when a wolf really does appear and attacks the sheep. The boy rings his bell and shouts 'Wolf!' but no one comes. Down in the village the men hear the boy but presume he is lying. As the shepherd says that night: 'Nobody believes a liar...even when he's speaking the truth.'

### Sequence of events:

*Suggestions for use include: cues for oral storytelling, support for storyboarding, story planning/writing etc*

- Boy takes job watching over sheep
- Boy becomes bored, and pretends a wolf is attacking
- The villagers come and the boy is

praised for saving the sheep

- Boy pretends a wolf is attacking again
- The villagers come, but do not appear to believe that there was a wolf
- A wolf really does attack
- The villagers do not come, so a sheep is eaten

**Characters:** Boy; Shepherd; Villagers

**Theme(s):** Practical jokes; Truth and lies

**Moral:** *If you tell lies people won't believe you, even when you are telling the truth.*

### Understanding, interpreting and responding to texts:

- What job is the boy given? (He must take the sheep into the hills to graze and look out for wolves)
- What must the boy do if he sees a wolf? (Ring his bell and shout 'Wolf!')
- Why does the boy decide to pretend there is a wolf? (He is bored: he hasn't seen a wolf, the days are long and there's no one to talk to)
- How do the men treat the boy the first time they come running? (They are pleased and pat him on the back)
- How do they treat the boy the second time? (They are not pleased with him; they don't thank him or pat him on the back)
- Why do you think the men treat the boy this way? (They think he might be lying)
- What happens when the boy really does see a wolf? (He rings his bell but the men ignore him)
- What do you think we can learn from the story? What is its moral? (That if you are known as a liar you won't be believed - even when you tell the truth)