



Assembly Plan - The Boy Who Cried Wolf

This assembly aims to:

- show that lying is wrong and to illustrate the idea that a liar may not be believed, even when telling the truth
- encourage children to consider the duty we have to look after animals in our care
- develop understanding of traditional fictional tales and to identify main events and characters within a story

Preparation and Materials

Assign character roles to members of the class and practise the script with them. You or one of the children (a good reader) can take the role of narrator and the other children in the class can take the parts of sheep, the shepherd boy, the wolf, the old man and the villagers.

Props:

Templates to make masks for the flock of sheep in the story can be created using the activity sheet found on www.britishwoollearning.com/community. A similar mask for the wolf could also be designed by adjusting this template. The accompanying PowerPoint presentation can be used when carrying out the assembly. This includes titles and background scenes to illustrate the story. These scenes can be used on a whiteboard to bring the story to life.

Assembly

Display presentation screen 2 -

Today we will be investigating a very well-known fable and the meaning behind it. Does anyone know what a fable is and can you name any? Perhaps you can name a famous storyteller?

A fable is a short story which has a moral or a lesson to learn from it, often fables have animals as the main characters. Many of the animals which feature in these tales have human characteristics. Often, they can speak.

Presentation screen 3 -

Has anybody heard of Aesop? Aesop was an Ancient Greek storyteller who lived a very long time ago. He wrote a collection of fables that we know today as Aesop's Fables. Aesop was a very famous storyteller.

Presentation screen 4 -

The fable from Aesop that we are telling today is unusual because it has a human as its central character. We are going to tell you the story of The Boy Who Cried Wolf. Listen carefully to the story and try to work out the moral (meaning or message) of this particular fable.

The Boy Who Cried Wolf - story

Presentation screen 5 -

Once upon a time there was shepherd boy. Every day it was his job to take care of his flock of sheep as they grazed in the hillside fields beside a deep, dark forest. It was a lonely job for the shepherd boy and he was often bored with only his flock of sheep for company.

Presentation screen 6 -

One day, the shepherd boy came up with a plan to amuse himself and to make his job more exciting. He left his sheep and ran quickly down towards the village shouting "Wolf! Wolf!" This alerted the villagers and they rushed to help him, joining him in the field to help protect his flock from being eaten by the wolf.

Presentation screen 7 -

When they arrived in the fields, the villagers could see no sign of the wolf but they had no reason to doubt the shepherd boy's story.



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This trick pleased the shepherd boy and just a few days later he tried the same thing. "Wolf! Wolf!" he cried and again the villagers came to drive the wolf away, again they found the flock of sheep happily grazing in the field and no sign of the wolf. The boy brought the villagers out in this way three or four times, each time he laughed to himself about the mischief he was causing.

Two days had passed since the last trick the shepherd boy had played. He was sitting quietly tending his sheep when he noticed a real wolf slowly creeping from the forest and towards his flock. The shepherd boy wasted no time, he jumped up and quickly ran toward the village crying "Wolf! Wolf!" more desperate and louder than before. But this time the villagers, who had been fooled before, ignored the shepherd boy's cries. They thought the boy was lying and trying to trick them again. None of the villagers came to the boy's aid. With nobody to stop it, the Wolf ate many of the sheep from the shepherd boy's flock.

Presentation screen 8 -

As night was falling, an old man from the village began to wonder where the shepherd boy was and why he hadn't returned with his sheep for the evening. He slowly climbed the hill to find the boy huddled against a wall with tears down each of his cheeks.

Seeing his distress, the old man tried to comfort him.

"There really was a wolf!" the boy wept "I cried out, "Wolf! Wolf!" Nobody came to help me protect the sheep."

The old man put his arm around the boy, "Unfortunately," he said "You cried 'wolf' too many times. Nobody believes a liar... even when he is telling the truth!"

————— Story End —————

Presentation screen 9 -

Do you know the meaning/moral of the story? Were you surprised by the ending? What were the consequences of the shepherd boy's lies? What do you think the boy will learn from this? Do you think he would cry 'wolf' again?

The sheep depended on the shepherd boy to look after and care for them. His lies upset the villagers and put the sheep in danger. The villagers were happy to help the boy when they thought the wolf might harm his sheep; they rushed to his aid. It wasn't until they believed the shepherd boy to be a liar that they ignored his cry for help and the wolf took the sheep.

Presentation screen 10 -

It is important to tell the truth; if we tell lies we become known as a liar and people no longer believe us even when we are telling the truth.

Next time you are thinking about telling a lie - remember the shepherd boy and think about what might happen.

Presentation screen 10 -

The end.