



The Boy Who Cried  
**WOLF**

written by Mike Kenny



## Study Guide

### *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*

#### Overview

Silas is from a family of shepherds and has to do right by his mum and granddad as he reluctantly takes on the responsibility of watching their sheep up on the mountain over the winter. But he's bored, lonely, and missing out on the fun of the annual knitting competition in town, so he cries - "Wolf!"

This is a beautiful wintery tale about a boy who learns that "nobody believes a liar, even when they're telling the truth" and finds a place for himself (and his imagination) in his warm woolly community. Inspired by Aesop's famous fable, a gifted ensemble of actor musicians play instruments and sing live as they embody all the delightful characters, including hilarious sheep and perhaps a scary wolf or two...

#### Vocabulary

Fable	A fable is a story that features animals, plants or forces of nature which are anthropomorphised (given human qualities). A fable always ends with a 'moral'. This is the lesson that is intended to be learnt through reading the story.
Tellies	Telly is short for television
Wellies	A knee-length waterproof rubber or plastic boot that protects your feet from puddles and mud.
Slippers	A comfortable slip-on shoe that is worn indoors.
Piccalilli	Piccalilli is an English interpretation of South Asian pickles, a relish of chopped pickled vegetables and spices; regional recipes vary considerably. Picalilli is a relish which usually accompanies cheese or cured meats.

## Background on Aesop

Most of our best-known fables are thought to have been written by a man called Aesop. The life of Aesop is a bit of a mystery. There is even some debate if Aesop was an actual person or just a name used by another writer. However, there have been mentions of Aesop in Greek history, which has allowed historians to piece together a biography (if it is true that he exists). Many of the stories about Aesop contain mythical interventions and legends.

Although Aesop is mentioned in Greek history, particularly by Greek historian Herodotus and Aristotle, many scholars do not believe that he actually existed. There is simply just not enough proof to confirm that he was alive.

## Social and Emotional Development

### Truthfulness & Honesty

We human beings are very clever! From a very young age we quickly learn that telling lies and exaggerating can not only prevent us from being punished for something that we should not have done, but can also help us to get what we want. Just like Silas who cried wolf because he didn't want to be a shepherd.

There are many reasons that we might tell a lie, exaggerate, or make excuses. Here are a few for you to think about:

- avoiding punishment
- avoiding embarrassment
- avoiding conflict
- avoiding doing something that we do not want to do
- to get our own way or to get what we want
- to be accepted or liked
- to make ourselves feel equal to others
- not wanting to hurt others' feelings
- not wanting others to dislike us or think less of us.

Why do you think Silas told a lie?

It can take a lot of courage to tell the truth particularly when we fear consequences or some form of punishment. (It can also be difficult to hear others being honest about something that has happened particularly when we have been involved and would

rather keep the truth hidden!) However, as we grow older and take on more responsibilities and commitments, it is very important that we stay aware of what we are saying and how it affects ourselves and others. It is equally important that we learn to admit our mistakes and take responsibility for the things that we have done (or maybe failed to do). It is very easy to blame others (or blame the situation) when things go wrong which can often mean that we are trying to cover up our shortcomings and weaknesses; hearing ourselves blaming others but then correcting ourselves or apologising is a big step towards living a more honest life.

### Respect

You can have respect for someone, their feelings, their wishes or their rights. You can have respect for things other than humans or things that are not living.

We can't expect to be respected unless we show respect. We don't want people to be rude to us, ignore us, hurt us, not trust us, take our things, break or spoil things, mess up our special places or spoil our experiences. Do you think Silas showed respect to his family and the villages? Why?

We can show respect by caring, following rules, respecting ourselves, being reliable, being punctual, being polite, trusting, keeping our promises and being fair.

### Decision Making

As we can see from the play, Silas made some bad decisions! Sometimes we make bad decisions when we don't understand how we are feeling and we have not thought about the consequences. A consequence is a result of something and can be good or bad.

Things to think about before making a decision:

- What will happen if I do this
- What will happen if I don't do this
- Who will it affect if I do it/don't do it?
- What will I need to do?

We can always find alternative choices to our decisions, what if I did this instead and what would happen then? What are some alternative choices Silas could have made?

Lots of different things can affect decision making. You might not be able to make good decisions if you are sad, angry, upset, tired, hurt or poorly. Why do you think Silas made the decision to lie?

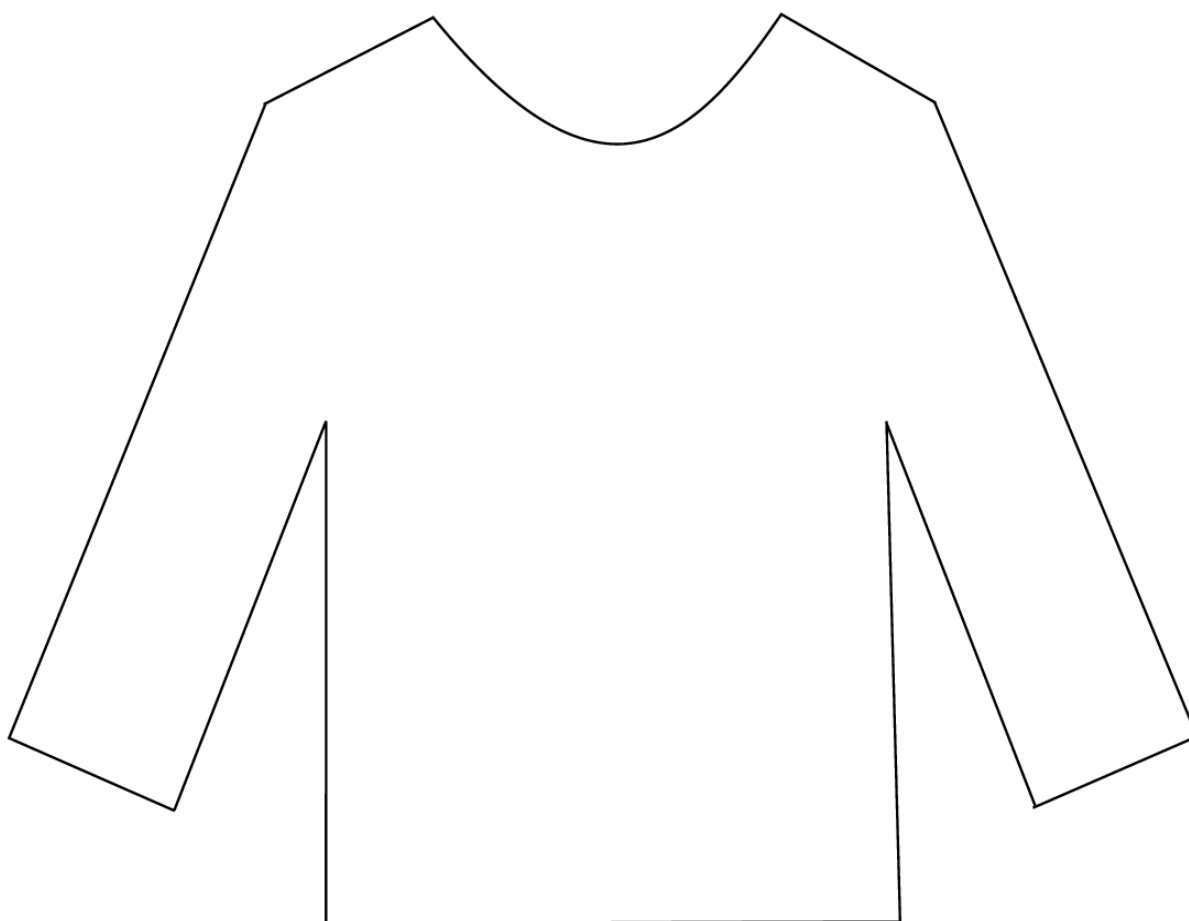


## Design a winning jumper

Every year Silas's mother knits a jumper to enter into the Winter Jumper Competition. Silas asks her to knit the picture of an astronaut on his jumper because that is what he wants to be when he grows up.

What would you like to be when you grow up? An astronaut? A tightrope walker? A storyteller?

Can you design a jumper using the template below, with a picture on it showing what you'd like to be when you're older?





## Silas's Story

Silas's feelings change throughout the story depending on what he is doing, who he is with and where he is.

Can you draw a line between things that happened to Silas in the story and how he felt? Can you think of a time when you had those feelings?

### Feeling

### Event

Fear	Being with Mother
Worry	Winning the jumper competition
Love	Facing the wolf
Bravery	Not helping the family
Excitement	Being on the mountain
Boredom	Dancing at the party
Pleasure	Working
Tiredness	Watching the sheep
Disappointment	Grandfather being ill
Laziness	Losing the jumper competition





## Boy Wolf Winter Walk

Silas spends three winters up on the mountain. Ask the children what Silas might have seen when he was up on the mountain during the winter? What would his surroundings have been like, what would he have sat on, looked at?

From their ideas make a list as a whole class or in smaller groups (using words or pictures) which you can use to go on a scavenger hunt.

Take the class on a winter walk with your 'scavenger list' and see how many of the things on the list you can find outside. You can collect pinecones to bring back to the classroom, and photograph or ask the children to draw animal tracks.



Why not use what the children have found and the pictures they have taken and drawn to make a 'winter' display with them in the classroom?

We'd love to see pictures of your winter display, please send us pictures to [hello@tutti-frutti.org.uk](mailto:hello@tutti-frutti.org.uk)

