

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

PreK Study Guide



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.
Jumper	Another name for a sweater or sweatshirt

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.

So what difference does it make if we tell a lie from time to time? The odd 'fib' once or twice a day a little exaggeration now and again blaming others occasionally can't do any harm surely? One big problem with being dishonest and exaggerating is that it is a very easy habit to start and continue but a very, very difficult habit to stop; and as we get older the consequences of being dishonest increase significantly. What were the consequences of Silas lying to his family and friends?

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?

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.

Self Awareness

Self awareness means knowing who you are and what feelings, thoughts and emotions influence your behaviour. To be self-aware, you have to know the emotions you have and why you feel them. You also have to know why you behave in the ways you do, and why you might react to people or situations in a particular way. What was Silas thinking and feeling before he told the lie? Do you think he was self-aware?

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?

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?

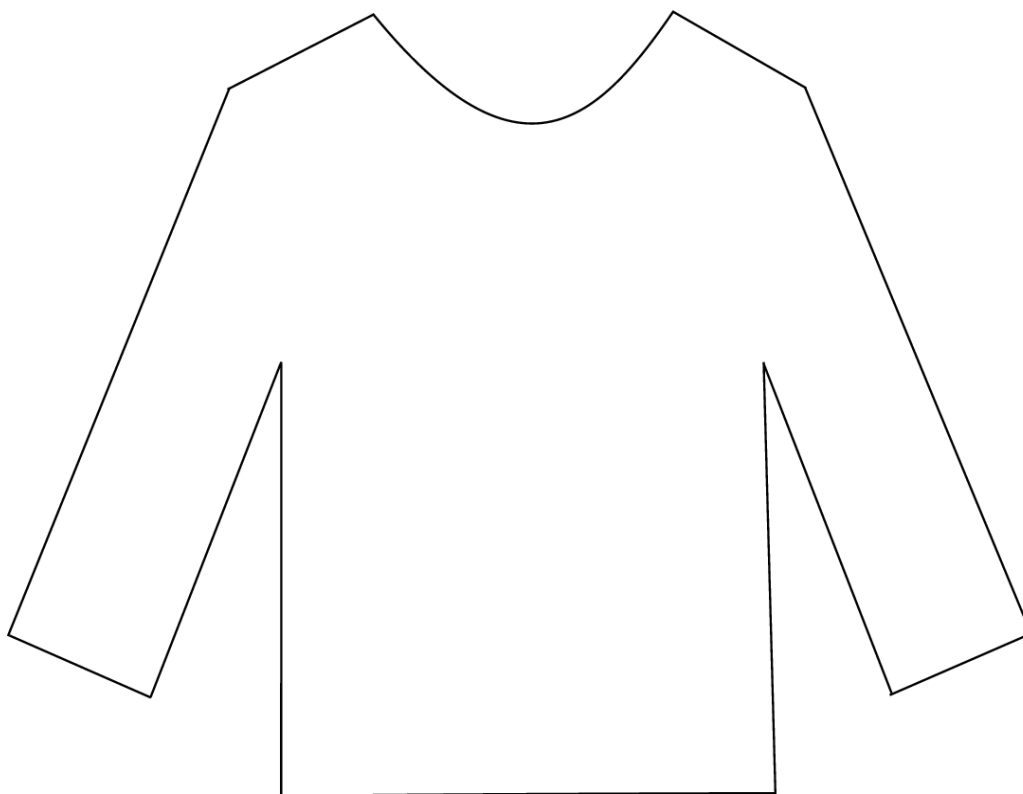


Design a winning jumper

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



We'd love to see your jumper, please send us your pictures
to: hello@tutti-frutti.org.uk





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



Winter Festivals

In the story of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* the villagers hold a winter knitting competition and have a party to light up the dark nights and take their minds off the wintry weather. Lots of people all over the world have winter festivals to cheer up the winter months.

Talk with the children about why we have winter celebrations. How many can they



- What Winter Festivals/Festivals of Light do we all celebrate – Diwali/Christmas/Hanukkah?
- How do we celebrate with our families/what do we do?
- How are they similar and how are they different?
- Ask the children what they would do if they held their own winter festival?
- How would they celebrate?

★ **Why not make some Jam Jar Lanterns (see our other resources) or some snow decorations or winter bunting to light up the classroom?**





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?





Snowy Wool Pictures

You will need

- Some wool fleece in different colours.
- paper or card
- glue

You can buy wool fleece at craft shops. Before fleece is spun (to make wool) it needs to be 'carded' to make it smooth.

Professionals do this with big brushes with wire bristles but you could do it with two old hairbrushes.

Hold them one on top of the other with the wool in between and pull in opposite directions,

Like this →



When our creative team were thinking of how the stage for the show might look they made this wool felt picture



What will you include in your picture?
What do you think you would see on Silas's mountain? Trees, snow, sheep a wolf?!

Why don't you use different materials for the various elements of the picture such as cardboard, foil, fleece and twigs. If you don't have fleece you could use cotton wool.





Winter lanterns

You will need:

- A clean empty jam jar
- PVA Glue
- Tissue paper, fabric, doilies or transparent sweet wrappers (anything see through you can stick to your jar!)
- A tea light (real or LED for safety)



When it's dark and cold outside why not make a winter jam jar lantern to light up your room or the garden?

Use an empty (clean!) jam jar and some materials to stick on it (see through materials like tissue paper, doilies, lace or clear sweet wrappers work best.)

Create a winter scene - you could include mountains, the night sky or snowy trees. Alternatively you could choose a shape you like (a snowflake or a tree) and create a pattern with that shape.



We'd love to see your winter lantern, please send us a picture of it to hello@tutti-frutti.org.uk

