



Distinguishing Different Perspectives in the Big Bad Wolf

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ACTIVITIES

Who doesn't know the famous fairy tale about a sweet little girl, her grandmother and a vicious big bad wolf?

Retell the story in your own words in about 10-12 sentences.

From whose perspective is your story told?

Name the positive characters (for example, the girl, her mother, the lumberjack).
What, in your opinion, makes the story so frightening?

- a) A lonely little girl in a vast forest
- b) A huge lumberjack with a big axe
- c) A helpless grandmother
- d) The blood-thirsty wolf

What is the story major conflict?

- a) Between good and evil
- b) Between people and nature
- c) Justice and injustice
- d) Between young and old generations

Do you think the end of the story is _____ ?

- a) Happy
- b) Surprising
- c) Fair
- d) Disappointing
- e) Educational

Do you believe it is an appropriate good night story for little kids?

If this fairy tale were presented by another character (the granny, the lumberjack , the wolf), would it bear the same message?

Note: one and the same story, situation, character may be described from various viewpoints/perspectives which might significantly affect our opinions, attitudes and perception.

The ability to identify different points of view- **DISTINGUISHING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES**- is an important thinking skill in understanding and appreciating literature.

Below is the story "The Maligned Wolf" which depicts the events in a totally different light.

First, complete the passage by using the verbs in brackets on one of the **PAST TENSES**.

Then applying the High Order Thinking Skill of Comparing and Contrasting, point out the similarities and differences between the traditional version of the tale and the one told by the wolf.

For example:

Similarities/points in common: characters, setting (the time and place of the action), outfit etc.

Differences: central conflict, motives, resolution, end.

Additional practice.

- Rewrite the parts of the story in the form of a dialogue.
- The conversation between the wolf and the girl on the trail in the forest.
- The conversation between the wolf and the grandmother before the girl's arrival.
- The conversation between the Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother in which the wolf's real intentions were revealed.

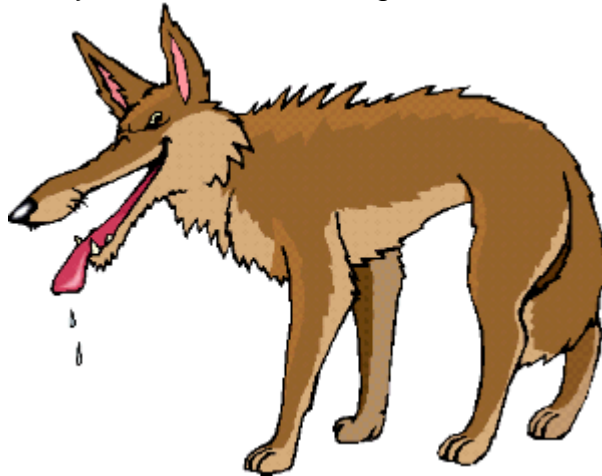


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The Maligned Wolf

By Leif Fearn, San Diego, California



The forest was my home. I lived there and I cared about it. I tried to keep it neat and clean.

Then one sunny day while I 1)..... (clean) up some garbage that a camper 2)..... (leave) behind, I heard footsteps. I 3)..... (leap) behind a tree and saw a rather plain little girl who 4)..... (come) down the trail. She 5)..... (carry) a basket that her mother 6)..... (pack) before she left home.

I was suspicious of that girl right away because she 7)..... (dress) very funny – all in red and her head 8)..... (cover)up so it seemed like she didn't want people to know who she 9)..... (be). Naturally, I stopped to check on her. I asked who she was, where she 10)..... (go) and where she 11)..... (come)from.

She gave me" a song and dance" about going to her grandmother's house with a basket of lunch. She appeared to be basically an honest person, but she was in my forest and she certainly looked suspicious in that strange attire of hers. So I decided to teach her just how dangerous it is to prance through the forest unannounced and dressed funny.

I let her go on her way, but I ran ahead to her grandma's house. When I saw that nice old woman, I explained to her what my problem was and what 12)..... (bother) me. She agreed that her granddaughter needed to 13)..... (teach) a lesson and supported my plan. She kindly agreed to stay out of sight until I 14)..... (call) her. She actually 15)..... (hide) under the bed.

When the girl arrived, I invited her into the bedroom where I 16)..... (stay) in bed dressed like the grandmother. The girl came in all rosy-cheeked and said something nasty about my big ears. I 17)..... (be) insulted before all my life so I made the best of it by suggesting that my big ears 18)..... (help) me to hear better. What I really meant was that I liked her and wanted to pay close attention to what she 19)..... (say). But she made another insulting remark about my bulging eyes. Now I was beginning to realize that this girl who put on such a nice front, was apparently a very nasty person! Still, I decided to act politely and said that my big eyes 20)..... (help) me to see her better.

Her next insult really infuriated me! I had always had that problem with having big teeth. And that little girl made an insulting crack about them. I know that I 21)

..... (should have) better control, but I leapt out of that bed and growled that my teeth 22) (help) me to eat her better.

Now, let's face it! No wolf would ever eat a little girl. Everyone 23)..... (know) it. But that crazy one started running around the house screaming. I, in my turn, 24) (chase) her to calm her down. I had taken off her grandmother's clothes, but that seemed to make it even worse. All of a sudden the door came crashing open and a big lumberjack 25) (stand) there with his axe. It became clear to me that I was in trouble. There was an open window behind me and out I went.

I'd like to say that was the end of it. But that grandmother character never did tell my side of the story. Before long the word got around that I was a mean, nasty guy. Everybody started avoiding me. I don't know about that little girl with the funny red outfit, but I 26) (not live) happily ever after.