

The Wolf's Tale

Louise Cooper

While Reading



1. Read this extract from a story

You all know the story of Little Red Riding Hood, right? Well, I'm sure of one thing. You don't know what *really* happened. No one does, except me. I know people don't believe in fairy tales these days, but the Riding Hood story happens to be true.

2. Now answer the following questions:

- a. What do you think the story is about?
- b. Who do you think is going to tell it?

Do you need any suggestions? Read these:

I can remember the pain

I wouldn't have harmed a hair of her head

So the woodsman cut me open

3. Here's the title of the story:

The Wolf's Tale

Were you right?

4. Now read the next paragraph in the story.

I should know. You see, I'm the wolf. And the rest of them—the girl, the woodsman, all the other people—they got it wrong. *All* wrong.

Well, in what way do you think they got it wrong? What do you think is the wolf's version of the story? Work in groups and write your ideas. Then compare them with the rest of the class.

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5. Now read a few more sentences. Were you right? Do you believe in the wolf's story?

They think I killed and ate old Granny. I didn't. I wouldn't have harmed a hair of her head, but when I tried to tell them so, of course they couldn't understand me. So the woodsman cut me open. Oh, how that *hurt*. I can remember the pain; it was horrible. Even now I have nightmares about it, and I shudder and cry out in my sleep, until I wake up screaming. They didn't kill me, you see. They thought they did, but they didn't. I can't be killed that way. It has to be something else.

Discuss:

1. Why couldn't they kill the wolf?
2. How do you think a wolf can be killed?

6. Writing activity – group work: Create your own ending.

Think of a possible conclusion to this story. You can write your suggestions (in no more than 3 – 4 lines) or draw a comic strip.

7. Now read the ending of the story as the author imagined it. Was this what you expected?

A silver bullet, that's the only thing that will work. A silver bullet, for a werewolf. Because that's what I really am. I was attacked by a werewolf one night, years ago. It bit me, and infected me with its curse. I'd give anything to be free. I'd rather die than live like this, changing every full moon into a monster that no one can control. I'd give anything to be what I used to be. A harmless human being. A little old lady, who was kind to everyone.

Red Riding Hood thought she knew all about her dear granny.
But she didn't. No one does.
Only me . . . and, now, you.

8. Listen to the author's voice narrating the story as you read.

The Wolf's Tale
by Louise Cooper

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9. Read the following statements about the tale and decide if they are right or wrong.

Tick A (YES = right) or B (NO = wrong).

	A YES	B NO
1. The narrator of the story is Little Red Riding Hood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The wolf knows the real story of Riding Hood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The wolf in the story is in fact a werewolf.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The werewolf killed and ate old Granny.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The werewolf was killed by the woodsman.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Only a silver bullet can kill a werewolf.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Little Red Riding Hood was attacked by a werewolf.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. A curse is something that may change your life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. The werewolf is very happy with its life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Little Red Riding Hood knows her granny very well.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Now answer the following questions.

1. Who is the narrator of the story?
2. Why does the wolf have nightmares?
3. How did old Granny become a werewolf?
4. What secret do you share with the narrator?
5. Do you sympathise with the wolf/werewolf? Why?