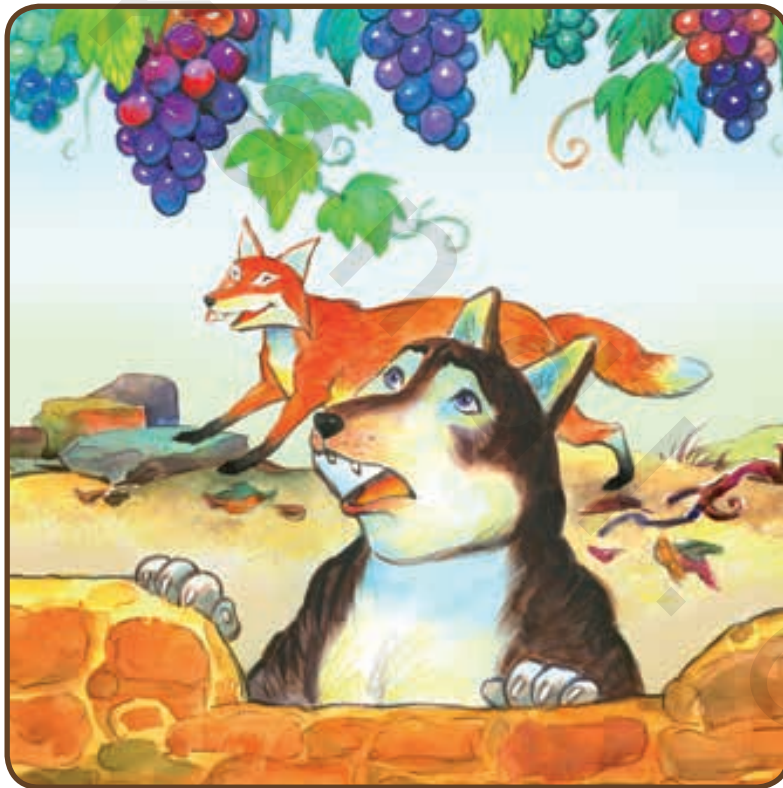




Educational stories for children

THE WOLF GUARD



By

Omar Elsayy

Translated by

Jennifer Peterson

Illustrations by

Ver Salvador

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Abëkan



The fox said to the wolf, "I'm hungry, my friend, very hungry!"

The wolf replied to the fox, "I'm also very hungry, but what can we eat?"



“Let’s eat delicious grapes from that vineyard,” said the fox.

“And how can we reach it when it’s surrounded by a high wall?”
said the wolf.



“There’s a hole in the wall that we can enter through,” said the fox.

“Come on.”

The two friends ran up to the wall.



The fox easily leapt through the hole and entered the vineyard, for he's slim and slender. Then the wolf leapt after him, but he made it through with difficulty because his body is larger than the fox's.



The fox laughed and said, "You should only eat a little, my friend."

The wolf was puzzled. "Why would I only eat a little when I'm hungry and there are so many grapes?"



“Because if you eat a lot your belly will grow and you won’t be able to get back out through that hole,” said the fox. The wolf laughed and said, “Don’t waste time talking; let’s get at the grapes.”



The two friends started eating. The fox ate just a little bit and then stopped. As for the wolf, he ate and ate until his belly was full and bloated.



And suddenly, the farmer appeared!

He came from afar with his three sons, each of them wielding a stick!



The fox ran off and escaped through the hole. The wolf ran after him, but he wasn't able to get through! His big belly got stuck in the hole.



The farmer and his sons grabbed hold of the wolf. They placed a rope around his neck and pulled him. They threatened him with their sticks, crying, “We’re going to kill you, you grape thief! We’re going to kill you!”



The wolf sobbed and cried, "Forgive me! I beg you, forgive me!"
They bellowed at him, "If we forgive you, you'll go back to stealing grapes!
We won't forgive you."



The wolf cried, "I was hungry and couldn't find anything to eat! Feed me anything else and I won't steal grapes. I promise you I'll repent and won't steal. I swear to it."



The farmer gestured to his sons and they loosened the rope. "We'll feed you the remains of our food-some bones, some bread, some soup. Will you give up stealing?"



Wiping his tears, the wolf replied, “Yes, sir, I’ll give up stealing, I promise you I will. I promise to be a loyal friend to you, a trusty guard to your farm. I swear to it.”



The farmer's sons removed the rope from around the wolf's neck and freed him. And true to his word, he didn't run off. He remained there as a guard to the house and farm, vigilant night and day.



The wolf kept his word. He turned from a thief to a guard and loyal friend. He lived on the farm for many years, and got married and had many baby wolves who looked just like him.



Unexpectedly, the wolf's children and grandchildren were all born loyal friends to mankind, as though they were upholding the promise of their grandfather, the loyal guard.



This strain of wolf is the same kind we see today everywhere, guarding houses and farms, and helping the police to catch thieves.



This kind of wolf has developed into strong, smart dogs who have forgotten that they were once wolves. And all the same, many people still call them wolf dogs.