



## EduTrend Contents

P4C · TRUTH AND HONESTY · PRIMARY

# The Boy Who Cried Wolf

An old fable starts a first enquiry into why telling the truth matters

Ages 5–7

Level: Foundation

30 minutes

Whole class circle · up  
to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

## ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

# The Boy Who Cried Wolf

The facilitator tells the old fable of the shepherd boy who shouted “Wolf!” as a joke until nobody believed him when a real wolf came. Children act out the story with simple props, then share what they noticed, suggest questions and vote on one, such as “Why should we tell the truth?” The enquiry explores trust in words children understand.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- retell a simple fable;
- ask a question about truth;
- give a reason;
- listen to a friend.

### KEY WORDS

truth · lie · trust · believe · joke · fable

### CURRICULUM LINKS

English: fables and retelling. PSHE: honesty. Drama: role-play.

1

#### STIMULUS

Share something to think about

2

#### THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

#### QUESTION

Create and choose a question

4

#### ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

#### BUILD

Agree, disagree, add

6

#### REFLECT

Last words

## Materials (per class)

- Simple props (a toy sheep, a hat)
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

## Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

### SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

## ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

# Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

| Time                    | What happens                                                      | Say or ask                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0–5 min<br>Stimulus     | Tell and act out the fable of the boy who cried wolf.             | <i>"What did you notice?"</i>                              |
| 5–12 min<br>Questions   | Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.                 | <i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i> |
| 12–26 min<br>Enquiry    | Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas. | <i>"Why should we tell the truth?"</i>                     |
| 26–30 min<br>Last words | Each person says one last thought or passes.                      | <i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>                        |

**CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)**

Say why the villagers stopped believing the boy and what he could do to be trusted again.

## ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

# The philosophy in brief

This fable is traditionally credited to Aesop, a storyteller from ancient Greece.

Stories give young children a shared example to reason about without talking about their own lives.

## Common ideas to listen for

- “A joke is never a lie.” Some jokes trick people.
- “If you say sorry, trust comes back at once.” It takes time.
- “Only big lies matter.” Small ones affect trust too.

## Adapting the activity

### Support

Use story picture cards.

### Stretch

Ask: was the boy lying or joking?

**WORKSHEET 1**

# Story pictures

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the story.

## Story pictures

| First | Then | In the end |
|-------|------|------------|
|       |      |            |

## WORKSHEET 2

# Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

## Thinking moves

| Thinking move                 | My example |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| I agree with... because...    |            |
| I disagree with... because... |            |
| An example is...              |            |
| A counter-example is...       |            |
| Building on what... said...   |            |

## WORKSHEET 3

# Last words

Before and after.

**Can you trust someone again after they lie? Before the enquiry I thought...  
Now I think... because...**

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FOR THE TEACHER

# Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

| Pupil | Retells the story | Gives a reason | Listens to others |
|-------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|       |                   |                |                   |
|       |                   |                |                   |
|       |                   |                |                   |
|       |                   |                |                   |
|       |                   |                |                   |
|       |                   |                |                   |
|       |                   |                |                   |
|       |                   |                |                   |

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

**ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY**

The Boy Who Cried Wolf is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Truth and Honesty programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at [edutrend.org](https://edutrend.org).

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