

Wolfie: An Unlikely Hero

By Deborah Abela & Illustrated by Connah Brecon

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I, The Wolf, am sick of being the bad guy. I'm taking over this book.

Dear Readers,

Fairytales are nonsense. They're full of wolves pestering pigs and picking on sweet little girls in red hoods. But I would never do those things. I knit! I bake blueberry pie!

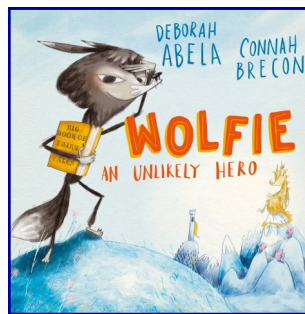
You know what I really want to do? I WANT TO RESCUE A PRINCESS!

And if I can't? I QUIT!

Yours sincerely,

Wolfie.

Wolfie may want to be a hero, but he's about to discover that arguing with this book's narrator is not the best way to improve his image...



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Fairytales
- Perceptions

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- Can you name classic stories or fairytales that feature the characters shown on the front and back cover?
- Write a list of fairytales that you're familiar with.
- How many of those stories feature a wolf or wolves? Is the wolf usually a good guy (hero) or a bad guy (villain)?
- Can you list some other things that many fairytales have in common? It could be types of characters, ways the story develops, or set phrases/sentences.
- Which of the above things can you find in Wolfie? Does the story show these details in the usual way? Which ones? Does the story also use these details in surprising or unexpected ways? How?
- Most stories feature just one narrator. Does Wolfie? Who is Wolfie speaking to when he says 'you'?
- The look of the book also gives hints about which voice/point of view is shown on each page. Can you find examples of this? (Consider how the writing looks, the characters' expressions, and so on.)
- Plot out your own twisted fairytale! List your characters and your setting. Then make a simple plot map of the beginning, middle and end of your story.
- Think of a fairytale character, such as Little Red Riding Hood, Prince Charming, a princess, the ugly stepsisters or an evil stepmother. Now draw how they are usually shown in fairytales (you can search images on the internet to help you). Then draw an alternative version of this fairytale character.

Some ideas:

- o Snow White was actually really mean to her stepmother.
- o Little Red Riding Hood bullied the wolf.
- o Prince Charming was actually Prince Grotesque or Prince Cranky Face and broke every mirror in the kingdom. Everyone was scared of him.
- o The Evil Stepmother was actually good and knitted clothes for orphans.