

Evaluating Character Traits: Answer Key

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Directions: Read the passage below, then complete the exercises on page 2.

Once upon a time, in a beautiful village near lush rolling hills, there was a boy who watched over the village's sheep. Being alone up in the hills was very boring. To liven up his day, the boy thought it would be fun to scare the villagers and scream, "Wolf, wolf!" The villagers grabbed whatever they could, and ran up the hill to scare off the wolf.

When they reached the top, they realized they had been tricked by the mischievous boy. He laughed and laughed until the villagers angrily walked down the hill. Even the sheep were not amused. The boy continued to call wolf, and the villagers warned him that the next time they would no longer believe him. The boy shrugged off the warning and laid down for a nap.

One lazy afternoon, the boy heard a terrible sound. Before he could even prepare himself, a wolf appeared right before him, and was chasing all the village's sheep! The boy screamed, "Wolf, wolf!", but having lied so many times, the people of the village just ignored him. With no one to help him fend off the wolf, the sheep all ran away, and the boy was left crying on the hill.



Part I: Investigating the Text **Answer Key**

1. Which personality trait best describes the boy?

- a. humble b. thoughtful **c. mischievous** d. honest

2. Describe how the boy feels about his job. Write a complete sentence.

Sample response: The boy thinks his job is boring. He grows lonely working by himself.

3. The villagers urged the boy to stop “crying wolf.” Based on the boy’s response, does he listen to people’s advice?

- a. yes **b. no**

4. Based on how this story ends, make a prediction about whether the boy will change this behavior.

Sample response: The boy will pay attention to the villagers’ advice in the future.

Part II: Reader’s Response

Which personality trait(s) led to the boy’s problem? Write your response on the lines below.

Check each box to make sure you have followed all of the directions:

- Clearly state the boy’s problem.
- Use at least two examples from the text to support your answer.
- Write at least three complete sentences.
- Stuck? Look up synonyms for these traits: mischievous, bored, and restless.

Sample response: The boy was lonely and bored working as a shepherd. He was

isolated on the hill above his village. The story explains that, “To liven up his day,

the boy thought it would be fun to scare the villagers and scream, ‘Wolf, wolf!’”

The villagers felt like they had been “tricked” by the boy. This shows that the main

character is a mischievous boy who was unkind to his villagers.