

# ***Peter and the Wolf Story Text***

Today we are going to hear a story about a courageous young boy named Peter. Peter lived with his grandfather next to a large meadow. The meadow was beautiful and Peter loved to play in it, despite the risk of coming face to face with a dangerous wolf.

One day, Peter was playing in the meadow, and before long, a duck waddled past him in search of a pond. The duck dove into the pond. He dove up and down, up and down. A nearby bird flew down next to the pond and asked the duck, "What kind of bird are you if you can't fly?" Angrily the duck replied, "What kind of bird are you if you can't swim?" Back and forth the bird and duck argued.

A few moments later, Peter saw something moving through the long meadow grass. A sense of fear came over him. Was it a wolf? His grandfather would be very upset if he knew Peter was in the meadow. He kept the gate locked for fear of a wolf that roams in the forest beyond the meadow.

Peter heard the animal getting closer and closer until, POW, a cat emerged as it lunged at the bird. The bird had been so busy arguing with the duck that it didn't hear the cat sneaking in the grass. In a swift movement, the bird flew back up into the tree.

The cat looked up at the bird, who was resting safely in the tree, and thought to himself, "Is it worth climbing up so high?" As the cat sat and contemplated how he would catch his lunch, Peter heard the voice of his grandfather calling from behind the fence. In that moment, Peter knew his grandfather was not happy that he had snuck into the meadow.

"Peter, come back home at once!" grumbled Grandfather. "A meadow is no place for a young boy. What would you do if a wolf should come out of the forest? Come home now!" Grandfather grabbed Peter by the arm and dragged him home, locking the fence behind him.

Moments later, from the depths of the forest came a large wolf. All the commotion had caught his attention, so the wolf crept quietly into the meadow in hopes of finding a snack. At first sight he saw the duck swimming in the pond. He crept closer and closer to the pond. Sitting high in the tree, the bird noticed the wolf and tried to warn the duck. In response, the duck quacked and jumped out of the pond, but she could not escape the wolf. With one gulp, he swallowed her! \*\*

From afar, Peter saw everything as he watched from behind the fence. Heartbroken and angry, Peter went to find a rope. He was going to catch that wolf!

Meanwhile, the cat had climbed quickly into the tree to stay safe from the dangerous wolf. On one branch sat the cat, and on another branch sat the bird, the wolf circling below.

After finding a long rope, Peter raced through the meadow and began to climb the tree where the cat and bird were resting. He could see the wolf below and his heart was racing. Although he was scared, Peter devised a plan to catch the wolf. Peter said to the bird, "Fly down and circle over the wolf's head. Only take care that he doesn't catch you."

The bird took flight, circling around the wolf's head. "Snap, snap, snap" went the wolf's mouth as he tried to catch the bird, but he was too slow for the bird. While the bird distracted the wolf, Peter made a lasso at one end of the rope and he slowly lowered it down, closer and closer to the wolf, until he caught the wolf by his tail.

Before long, a rumble of sound came barreling out from the forest. It was two hunters! They marched together in search of the wolf and, upon seeing it, fired off shots with their loud rifles. "Don't shoot, don't shoot!" cried Peter. "I have already caught the wolf, see?" he said, pointing to the wolf hung up by his tail.

Hearing all the noise, Grandfather came running into the meadow. He couldn't believe his eyes. There was Peter, pointing to the wolf hanging by the rope. Peter proudly told his Grandfather what happened and asked him and the hunters to help take the wolf to the zoo.

In a triumphant procession, everyone began to march to the zoo: Peter at the head, the hunters leading the wolf and Grandfather and the cat bringing up the rear. Above them flew the bird chirping merrily, while the duck could be heard quacking inside the wolf's stomach, for the wolf had swallowed her whole.

**\*\*Note to teachers:**

There is an alternate ending to the story, where the duck successfully hides at the base of the tree and is not eaten by the wolf. If you feel this version is more appropriate for your students, please feel free to alter the story.