

Fantasy

Katie and the Wolf

by Megan Howard

illustrated by John Nez



Read to Find Out

How are wolves a real problem for Katie and her grandmother?

STRATEGIES & SKILLS AT A GLANCE

Comprehension

- Strategy: Generate Questions
- Skill: Distinguish Between Fantasy and Reality

Vocabulary

- ached, admire, bothering, concentrate, dangerous, passion, splendid

Vocabulary Strategy

- Dictionary: Multiple-Meaning Words

Word count: 929

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CHAPTER 1

Dinner with Granny

"You haven't eaten any lunch, Katie," my grandmother said. She was right. The pile of mashed potatoes was a round ball. My broccoli pieces still looked like perfect little trees. And I had eaten only a spoonful of bean chili.

The next day, Granny was leaving on a trip to Europe. She was staying on a sheep farm in Ireland for a month. Traveling the world was Granny's passion, but I was worried.

"With all those sheep, there might be wolves," I told her. "It could be dangerous."

"You've been reading too many fairy tales," Granny said.

I had read plenty of fairy tales. But I had also read a lot of nonfiction. I knew the difference. In fact, I had learned a lot about sheep. "Wolves eat sheep all the time."

"That does sound awful," Granny said with a smile. She was a vegetarian and never ate meat. "I promise to watch out for wolves."

I felt better. I hadn't meant to worry Granny, but I wanted her to be careful.





After our meal, we cleared the table and washed the dishes.

"I'll mail you lots of postcards from Ireland," Granny told me.

"And you'll e-mail me every night, right?" I asked.

"Of course," she replied. Even though Granny lived right next door, she always sent me a goodnight e-mail.

"I really admire the way you explore the world," I told her. "I hope I grow up to be just like you."

Suddenly, I felt soft fur twisting around my ankles. It was Granny's cat, Ribbon. I picked up Ribbon. "I'll take good care of her," I said.

"I know you will," said Granny. "Now run home and do your homework. You have school tomorrow. And I have to pack and make a list of things to do on my trip. Bundle up. It's raining hard."

I put Ribbon on the floor. I pulled on my red raincoat and boots. Then I ran out the door and next door to my house.





CHAPTER 2 **Ima Wolf**



The next afternoon, I raced home from school. By the time I got home, my legs ached. Still, I rushed to the computer. My father was already working on it.

"Can I check to see if Granny sent me an e-mail?" I asked without bothering to take my backpack off.

"I have to work, honey," he said.

"What if something funny happened on the plane? She'll want to tell me," I said.

My father made room for me at the desk. "All right," he said, "Let's check your messages now."

Dropping my backpack on the floor, I sat down at the computer. There were no new messages. I decided to wait a little while. Maybe Granny just needed more time.

Suddenly, a message popped up on the screen. The screen name was Ima Wolf. "Hi," the message said.

I laughed. It had to be Granny. She was joking about wolves.

I typed a response. "Granny, is that you?"



"Yes," was the answer.

"How are you?" I asked.

The reply came back quickly.
"Hungry."

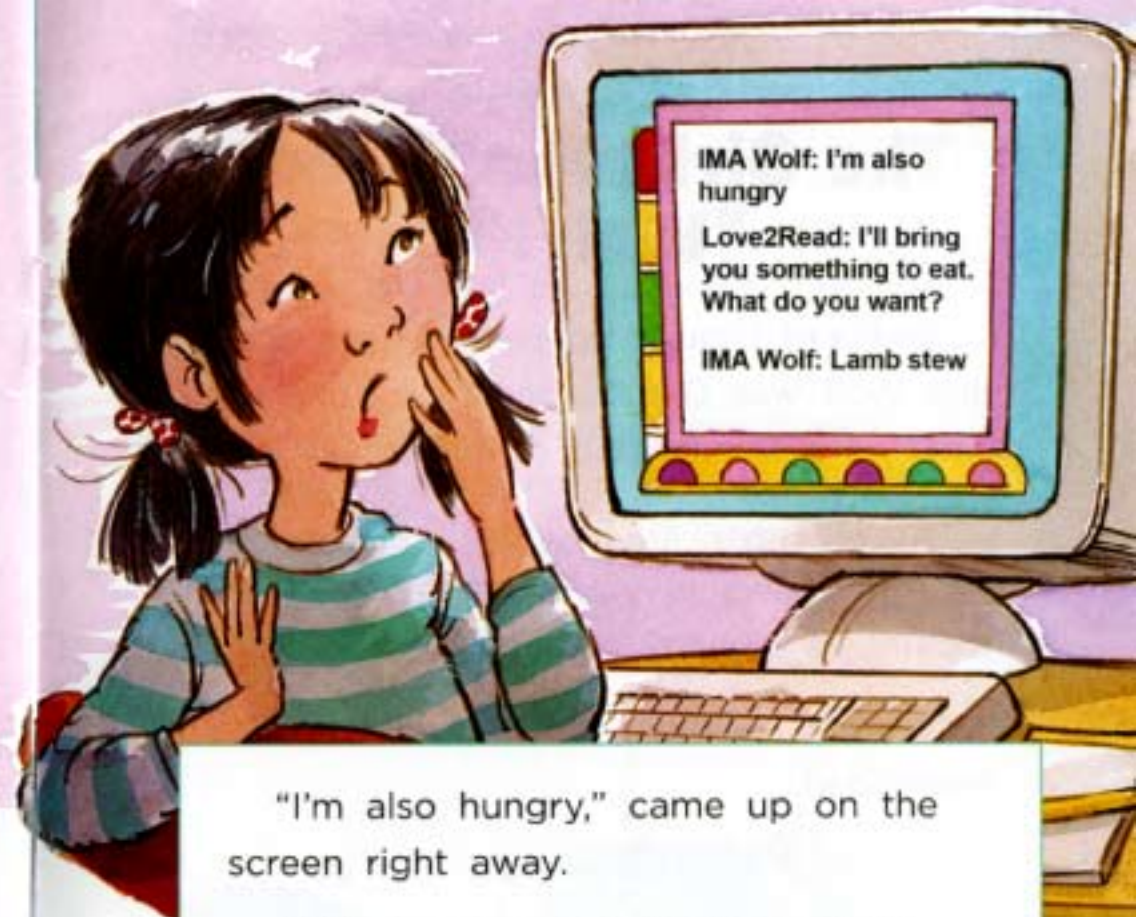
"How is your vacation?"

Her answer surprised me. "I'm not on vacation. I'm home."

What was going on? "Why are you there?" I asked.

"Because I'm sick."

Sick? Poor Granny! "You should have called Dad," I wrote. "He would have helped you."



"I'm also hungry," came up on the screen right away.

"I'll bring you something to eat," I wrote. "What do you want?"

"Lamb stew," was the response.

Granny never ate meat! Was someone trying to trick me? I looked over at Dad.

"Let's find out what's going on," he said.

The Girl Who Cried "Wolf!"

Dad and I came up with a plan. If Ima Wolf was Granny, she'd be able to send us a photograph of something in her house.

"Granny, would you send me a picture of Ribbon?"

"I don't have any ribbon," she responded.

Ima Wolf had fallen right into our trap! Granny would have known what I meant.

"Ribbon is your cat," I wrote her.

"Oh, right. I guess I forgot because I'm sick."

"I guess a really sick person could have gotten confused," I said to Dad.

A photo of Ribbon appeared on my computer.

"Maybe it really is Granny after all," I said. We had to know for sure. We needed more proof.

Just then I had a splendid idea! I told her to send me a photograph of herself. I waited until a picture appeared in front of me. It was very blurry. I could hardly see the face.



"Granny, your eyes look huge," I typed.

"That's just because I'm sick," she wrote back.

"And your nose looks so long," I pointed out.

"You don't have to insult me," she responded.

"Your teeth are incredibly pointy," I said.

"Those are my new false teeth," she explained.

But there was one feature that made no sense at all. "What about the fur all over your face?"

Ima Wolf logged off right away. There was someone in Granny's house, but it wasn't Granny!



I tried to concentrate on the photograph. I thought and thought. It was a wolf!

I jumped up from the computer. Dad called the police, and we both went over to Granny's house.

I was right! Two police officers were walking out of Granny's house with a wolf in handcuffs.

When I got back home, I found an e-mail from Granny. "Katie, I miss you so much. So far I have seen a lot of sheep. Luckily, there haven't been any wolves."



Comprehension Check

Summarize

Use a Fantasy and Reality Chart to tell about the events and characters in the story. Then use the chart to summarize the story.

Fantasy	Reality

Think and Compare

1. Read the story again. When could you first tell that the story was a fantasy? Give examples. **(Distinguish Between Fantasy and Reality)**
2. What do you admire most about your grandparents or other older relatives? Explain. **(Evaluate)**
3. Why is it important to know exactly who you are chatting with on the Internet? **(Apply)**

Literacy Activities



A Note to Granny

Pretend you are Katie. What would you e-mail back to Granny in Ireland? Would you tell her about the wolf in her house? Why or why not?



Compare Wolves

On a separate sheet of paper, make a two-column chart. In one column, list traits that a make-believe wolf might have. In the other column, list traits of a real wolf.

Make-Believe Wolf	Real Wolf

Katie and the Wolf

Katie can't wait to hear from her grandmother who is on vacation. But when a message finally comes, Katie is surprised.



3.2 Week 2

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