The Story of Peter and the Wolf

By Sergei Prokofiev

(Revised to include 1^{st} grade and 2^{nd} grade Dolch and 1^{st} grade and 2^{nd} grade Fry sight words)

Once upon a time, there was a young boy named Peter. Peter lived with his grandfather near a big green meadow. There was a stone wall between their house and the meadow. Peter was not supposed to go beyond the wall. Peter could see the meadow from the house and wanted to see what was in it.

Early one morning, Peter decided to open the gate in the stone wall. He went out into the meadow. It was very quiet in the meadow. Near the wall was a big tree with many branches. A little bird sat on one of the branches. The little bird was Peter's friend. "All is quiet" sang the little bird happily. Peter and the bird talked about what they could do that day.

A duck saw the open gate and came waddling along. She went straight to the deep pond in the meadow for a nice swim. When she saw the duck, the little bird flew down to the grass beside her.

"What kind of bird are you if you cannot fly?" she said to the duck. The duck said "What kind of bird are you if you cannot swim?" and jumped into the pond. They argued for a long time while the duck swam in the pond, and the little bird hopped along the side.

Suddenly, Peter saw a cat crawling through the tall grass.

The cat said to himself, "The bird is so busy arguing with the duck, he will not see me. I can just grab him."

The cat tiptoed very quietly towards the bird.

"Look out!" Peter shouted. The bird quickly flew up into the tree. The duck quacked at the cat from the middle of the pond. The cat walked around the tree. She said to herself, "Do I want to climb up high in the tree? The bird will fly away before I can get there."

Just then, Grandfather came out of the house. He was angry because Peter had gone into the meadow. "I told you it is a dangerous place. A wolf could come out of the forest. What would you do then?"

But Peter did not listen to his grandfather. Peter was not afraid of wolves.

Grandfather took Peter by the hand back to the house, locking the gate behind them.

Just then, a big grey wolf came out of the forest. Quickly, the cat climbed up into the tree.

The duck was so excited she quacked and jumped right out of the pond. The duck ran and ran, but the wolf ran faster. He came closer and closer until he caught up with her. He swallowed her in one gulp.

And now, the cat was sitting on one branch and the bird on another branch, but not too close. The wolf walked around and around the tree, looking very hungry.

While all of this was going on, Peter was standing behind the gate watching everything. He ran home and found a strong rope. He climbed up the high stone wall near the big tree in the meadow. The wolf was walking below the branches of the tree. Peter saw one branch growing over the wall. He grabbed the branch and climbed onto the tree.

Peter said to the bird, "Fly down around the wolf's head, but be careful that he does not catch you."

The bird nearly touched the wolf's head with her wings.

The wolf was angry and snapped at her.

The bird was teasing the wolf, and this made him even angrier. The wolf wanted to catch her! But the bird was clever and the wolf could not catch her.

The wolf was so busy trying to catch the bird, he did not see what Peter was doing. Peter had made a lasso out of the rope. He carefully let it go down from the tree above the wolf. He caught the wolf by the tail and pulled hard.

When he knew he was caught, the wolf began to jump wildly, trying to get loose from the rope.

Peter tied the end of the rope to the tree. The wolf's jumping around made the rope even tighter.

Just then some hunters came out of the forest, shooting as they came. They had followed the wolf's trail.

Peter was still sitting up in the tree and he called out, "Do not shoot! Birdie and I have already caught the wolf. Please help us take him to the zoo."

The hunters agreed to help. Now just imagine the happy parade. Peter was at the beginning. Next came the hunters leading the wolf. At the end came Grandfather and the cat.

Grandfather still was not very happy with Peter. He was afraid of what could have happened if Peter had not caught the wolf.

Birdie was singing happily about how brave she and Peter were.

And if you listen very carefully, you can hear the duck quacking inside the wolf, because the wolf had swallowed her alive.

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