

## The Wolf and the Crane

Once upon a time, in a dense forest, there lived a cunning wolf. One day, while enjoying his meal, he accidentally swallowed a small bone that got stuck in his throat. The pain was unbearable, and he couldn't eat or sleep properly. Desperate for a solution, the wolf devised a plan. He had heard of a crane who possessed a long and slender beak, perfect for retrieving objects from tight places. The wolf thought that the crane could be of great help to him. So, he summoned the crane and offered her a large sum of gold in exchange for her assistance. The kind-hearted crane agreed to help the wolf, despite sensing his treacherous nature. She gently approached the wolf and carefully inserted her long beak into his throat.

After a few attempts, she successfully extracted the bone from the wolf's throat. The wolf felt immediate relief, and the crane eagerly awaited her reward. However, as the crane demanded her payment, the wolf's face twisted into a cunning grin. He looked at her with his sharp teeth exposed and said, "Why, you have surely already had a sufficient recompense, in having been permitted to draw out your head in safety from the mouth and jaws of a wolf."

The crane was taken aback by the wolf's response. She had risked her life to help him, and now he was refusing to fulfill his promise. Disappointed but not surprised, the crane realized that she should have expected this from someone as wicked and cunning as the wolf.