

Wolves – good or bad?

This text tells us about how wolves and other animals are represented in different stories, cultures and everyday sayings.

In fairy tales, wolves are often portrayed as cunning, cruel creatures. They blow down the little pigs' houses and heartlessly swallow Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother.

This negative view of wolves is reflected in many popular expressions such as:

To cry wolf – *to give a false alarm*

To wolf down food – *to eat greedily*

A wolf in sheep's clothing – *a deceptive or dishonest person*

However, wolves in other stories sometimes have a better reputation. For centuries, the wolf has been a symbol of fighting ability, courage and endurance. Native Americans used the name for their most powerful warriors, for example, Little Wolf.



Both in Roman legends and in Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, wolves save human babies and bring them up as if they were their own wolf cubs. Furthermore, these children are often shown to develop superior strength and intelligence.