

(011) Crying 'Wolf!'

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A young shepherd ^{牧羊人} looked after the sheep of his village. He got bored staring at sheep ^{咀嚼} chewing grass. So, he cried out 'Wolf!'. The villagers came rushing out of their houses. They carried sticks and ^{草耙} pitchforks to fight off the wolf. This was more exciting. There was no wolf. The boy just enjoyed being the centre of attention.

He did this three times in a week. Each time the villagers rushed out but there was no wolf. One day, a wolf really did appear on the hill. The boy cried 'Wolf!' The villagers were tired of answering his false alarms. They did not come. The wolf killed many sheep. He was very hungry so he ate the boy as well.

The boy warned people about a danger that was not there. This is called 'crying wolf!'

Another little boy played this game in the city. He set off the burglar alarm in his parents' home. He loved to see the police car arrive. It had a flashing blue light and a roaring ^{警報器} siren.

He did this three times in one month. After the police left the third time, his parents took him to see his grandmother. When the house was empty, a real burglar broke in. The police heard the alarm. "Not again!" they declared. This time, they ignored it.

The burglar stole expensive jewellery. The boy's mother meant to use this to pay his university fees. It was not insured. The little boy grew up to be a taxi driver instead of a lawyer. His taxi had a light on the roof but it did not flash.