

7 Work Well Done

a story from Russia

Before You Read

Before you read "Work Well Done," go over the words below. Make sure you know what each word means. This will help you when you read the story.

jobs: the work one does; different kinds of work. The dog did many *jobs* on the farm.

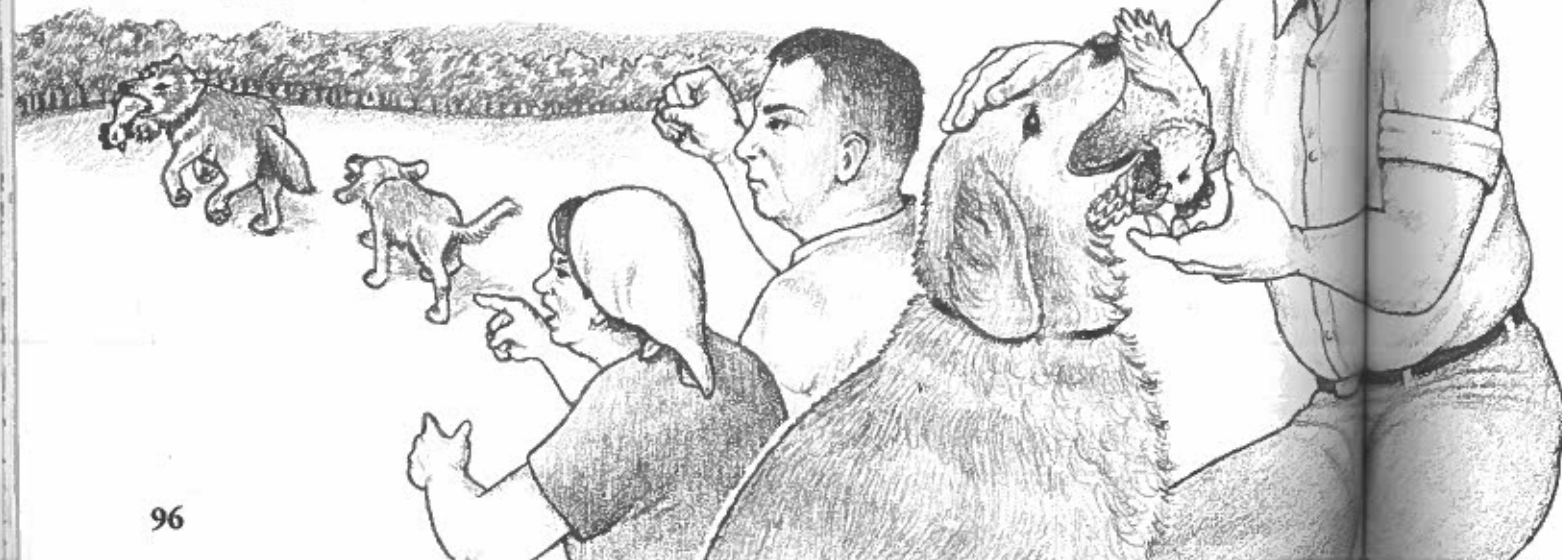
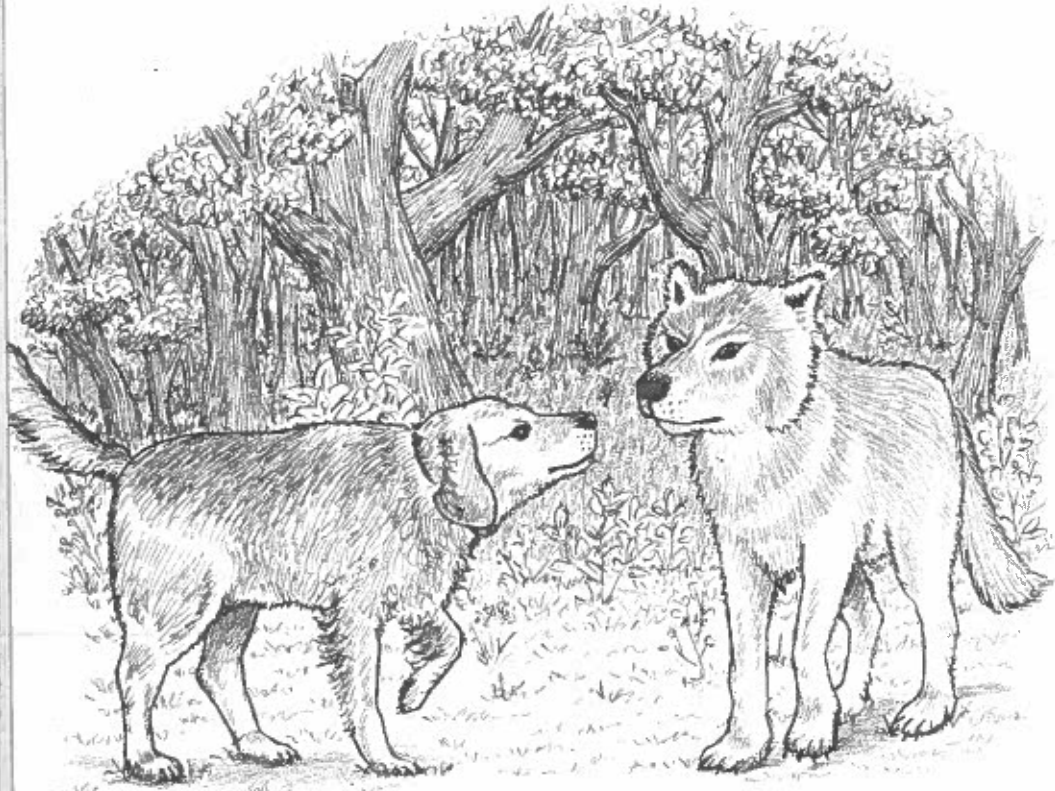
get rid of: do away with something. I want to *get rid of* my old clothes.

finally: at last; after some time. The dog *finally* caught up to the wolf.

arrived: came to a place. They *arrived* at the house on time.

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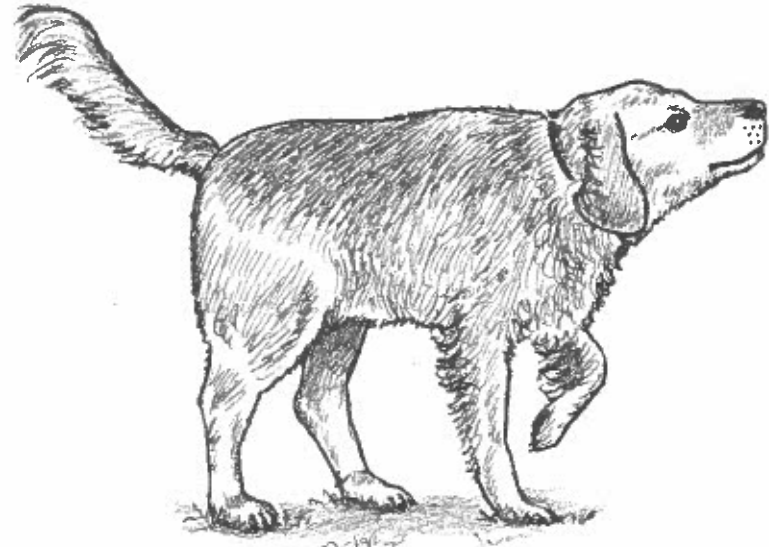


A farmer and his wife had a dog. It was a good dog. They had it for many years.

The dog was named Rex. The dog was a fine pet. But he also worked hard. He did many jobs on the farm.

He watched the house. When someone came near, he began to bark. The dog had a loud bark. It was easy to hear. When the dog barked, that meant someone was near.

There were some chickens on the farm. The farmer kept them behind the house. Rex had to watch over the chickens. Sometimes a wolf came out of the woods. The wolf wanted to eat the chickens. Then Rex ran at the wolf. He began to bark. He chased the wolf away.



The dog did these things for years. Then he got old. He could not bark very well. He could not run very fast. His legs were not strong.

One day the farmer and his wife were talking. The farmer said, "Rex has been a good dog. But now he is old. He cannot bark very well. He cannot run very fast. Still he must eat. We must pay for food."

"What do you think we should do?" asked the wife.

"Maybe we should get rid of him," the farmer said.

"You may be right," said the wife.

The farmer said, "I could take him far out into the woods. I could leave him there. He would not be able to find his way back. I might do that. I will think about it."

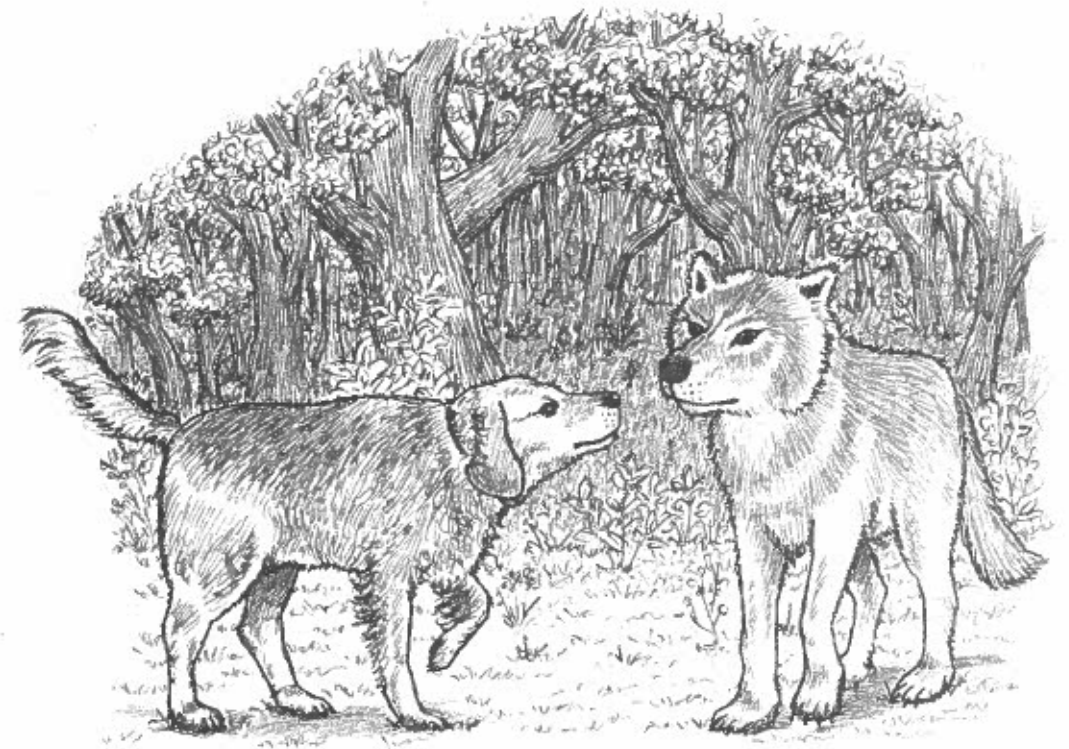
The dog heard them talking. He knew what they were saying. They did not want him any more. That made Rex sad.

Later that day Rex took a walk. He went into the woods. There he saw the wolf. The dog and the wolf knew each other. They were not friends. But they talked now and then.

"What is the matter?" asked the wolf. "You look very sad."

"Yes," Rex said. "I am very sad. The farmer and his wife say I am old. They do not want me anymore. They are going to leave me somewhere."

"What!" said the wolf. "They cannot do that! You have been a good dog. You watched the house well. You always kept me away from the chickens."



"I know," said Rex.

"Ah, well," said the wolf. "That is the way people are."

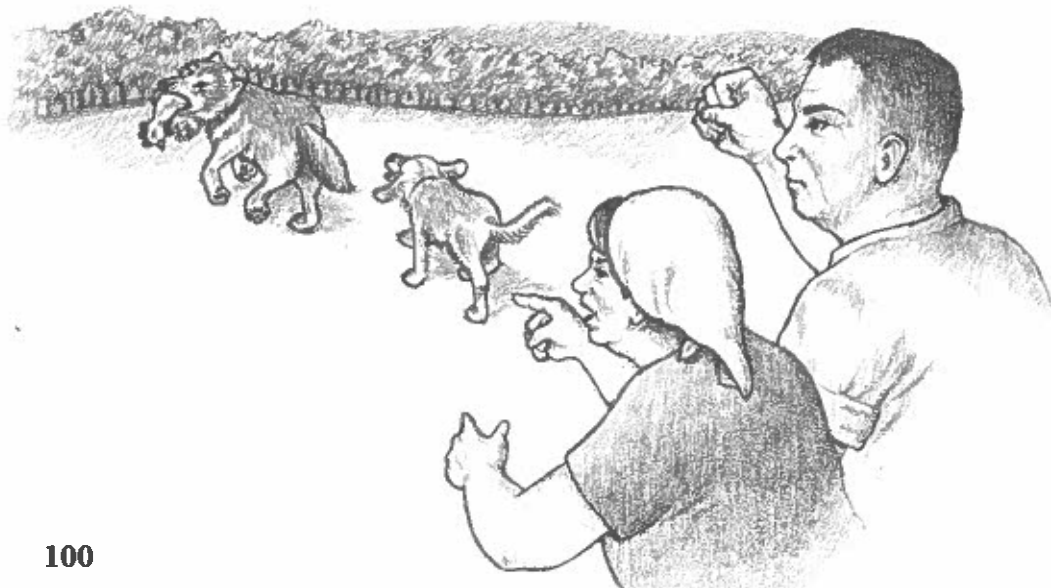
"There is nothing I can do," said Rex.

"I have an idea," said the wolf. "Go back to the farm. I will come by later. I will **grab** one of the chickens. I will take it and run. You can run after me. I will run to these woods. I will wait for you here. Then I will give you the chicken. You can take it back."

So that is what they did. The wolf came out of the woods. He found the biggest, fattest chicken. He took it and ran.

Rex began to bark. Then he ran after the wolf. The farmer and his wife saw it all.

The wolf ran into the woods. He waited for Rex. Rex finally caught up to him. The wolf gave the chicken to Rex. Rex brought it back to the farmer.



The farmer and his wife were happy. They said, "Rex is still a good dog. We will keep him a little longer."

The next night Rex went into the woods. He saw the wolf.

"Well, Rex," said the wolf. "How did everything go?"

Rex said, "Everything went very well. The farmer and his wife are happy with me now. They will keep me for a while."

"Ah," said the wolf. "That is good for you. But what about me? I did something for you. What will *you* do for *me*?"

Rex said, "I will do something for you. I heard the farmer and his wife. They are making a big dinner. It will be on Saturday night. Their son and his wife will come. They will bring their three children. There will be plenty of food."

“Food!” said the wolf. “Good! I love food!”

“Here is what to do,” said the dog. “Come at six o’clock. Go to the back door. Wait there for me. Everyone will sit down to eat. Then I will push the door open. Come in. Go to the kitchen. It is by the back door. Take all the food you want. Then hurry away.”

“Yes,” said the wolf. “That is what I will do.”

Saturday night came. The farmer’s wife made a lot of good food. The son arrived with his wife. They brought their three children. One was a little boy. He was just two years old.

The family talked for a while. Then the farmer said, “Now let us eat.”



They went to the dining room. They sat down at the table. It was piled high with food.

“Eat all you want,” the farmer’s wife said. “There is more in the kitchen.”

Rex was watching them. He saw they were eating.

He went to the back door. He pushed the door open. There was the wolf.

“Come in,” said Rex. “Go to the kitchen. Take the food that you want. Then hurry away. I must go back to the others.”

The wolf went into the kitchen. There were many kinds of food. The wolf liked them all. What should he take? The wolf did not know. He ate a little of this. He ate a little of that. Everything was so good! He just kept on eating.

Rex sat near the table. He listened to the family talk.

The farmer said to his son, “Rex is old. Soon he will be too old to work. What should I do with him then?”

Just then the little boy climbed out of his chair. He went into the kitchen. But the wolf was still there! He was eating the food. He was eating and eating.

The little boy saw the wolf. The boy started to scream.

The family heard the child’s cries. They rushed into the kitchen.

The farmer called out, “There is a wolf in the kitchen!”

The farmer’s wife said, “He ran away with our chicken!”

The boy’s mother cried out, “Now he will take away my baby!”





Rex came into the room. Rex saw the little boy. Rex saw the wolf. He began to bark at the wolf. The wolf turned around. It ran to the back door. Rex kept on barking. The wolf ran out the door. He ran back to the woods.

“Good dog!” said the farmer’s son. “Good dog! Good Rex!”

He patted Rex on the head. Then the farmer’s son said, “From now on, Rex will be our pet. He does not have to work. He can sit around all day. He can eat all he wants.”

So Rex became that family’s pet. He did not have to work. He sat around or played. And he had a lot of food to eat.

What happened to the wolf? Nobody knows. Rex never saw him again.

TELL ABOUT THE STORY.

Put an X in the box next to the right answer. Each answer tells something (a *fact*) about the story.

- When someone came near the house, Rex would
 - a. bark.
 - b. cry.
 - c. run away.
- The farmer said he might leave Rex
 - a. at home.
 - b. with a neighbor.
 - c. in the woods.
- Rex told the wolf to
 - a. come in the front door.
 - b. wait at the back door.
 - c. eat all of the food.
- The farmer’s son said that Rex could
 - a. work for him.
 - b. stay in the yard.
 - c. be the family’s pet.

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END EACH LINE.

Finish the lines below. Fill in each empty space with one of the words in the box. Each word can be found in the story. There are five words and four empty spaces. This means that one word in the box will not be used.

Some wolves look very much like _____¹. But wolves have bigger feet and longer _____². The _____³ is stronger than the dog. And wolves have short ears that always stand up _____⁴.

legs	straight
night	wolf
dogs	

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SHOW WHAT WORDS MEAN.

The words below are printed in **dark letters** in the story. You may look back at these vocabulary words before you answer the questions. Put an X in the box next to the right answer.

1. The wolf said he would grab a chicken. The word *grab* means
 a. drop.
 b. take.
 c. help.
2. The farmer's wife made plenty of food. The word *plenty* means
 a. a lot of.
 b. very little.
 c. some.
3. The boy started to scream when he saw the wolf. When you *scream*, you
 a. call or cry out.
 b. do not move.
 c. jump up and down.
4. They all rushed into the kitchen. The word *rushed* means
 a. stopped.
 b. looked.
 c. hurried.

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THINK ABOUT THE STORY.

Here is how to answer these questions. First think about what happened in the story. Then work out the right answers. This is called *critical thinking*.

1. Which one is true?
 a. Rex got lost in the woods.
 b. The wolf helped Rex.
 c. The child laughed at the wolf.
2. The wolf stayed in the kitchen a long time because it
 a. did not know how to get out.
 b. was waiting for the family.
 c. kept eating the food.
3. The farmer's son was very good to Rex because Rex
 a. chased the wolf away from the baby.
 b. could still work hard.
 c. liked to play with children.
4. At the end of the story, Rex must have felt
 a. happy.
 b. sad.
 c. worried.

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SPOT PARTS OF A STORY.

Stories have **characters**, a **plot**, and a **setting**. (See page 3.) Put an X in the box next to the right answer.

1. What happened first? (**Plot**)
 a. The farmer thought about getting rid of Rex.
 b. Rex let the wolf in the house.
 c. The wolf ran away with a chicken.
2. What happened last? (**Plot**)
 a. The farmer's son patted Rex.
 b. Rex met the wolf in the woods.
 c. The family sat down to eat.
3. Which best tells about Rex? (**Character**)
 a. He was very lazy.
 b. He worked hard for many years.
 c. He was never sad.
4. Where does the story take place? (**Setting**)
 a. in a big city
 b. in a park
 c. on a farm

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THINK SOME MORE ABOUT THE STORY.

Your teacher might want you to write your answers.

- If you were the farmer, would you have wanted to get rid of Rex? Why?
- What if Rex had not chased the wolf out of the house? How do you think the story would have ended?
- At the end of the story, did you feel sorry for the wolf? Why?

Write your scores in the box below. Then write your scores on pages 122 and 123.

<input type="text"/>	TELL ABOUT THE STORY
+	
<input type="text"/>	END EACH LINE
+	
<input type="text"/>	SHOW WHAT WORDS MEAN
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<input type="text"/>	THINK ABOUT THE STORY
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<input type="text"/>	TOTAL SCORE: Story 7