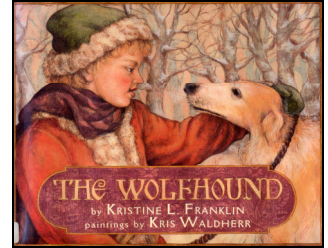


Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide

Title: *The Wolfhound*
Author: Kristine L. Franklin
Illustrator: Kris Waldherr
Publisher and Copyright Date: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1996



Connection to Minnesota: Minnesota author

Summary: This is a story about a young Russian peasant boy who rescues a wolfhound from a freezing snowstorm. The boy's father is afraid that the rulers will think the boy stole the dog and wants to drive the dog away. The boy is determined to return the dog safely home to the Tsar.

Suggested ages: 7-10

Tips for Reading:

- Show children where Russia is located on a world map.
- Explain the hierarchy of the historic Russian government and its people (for example peasant, etc.).
- Explain the "Wolfhound" breed of dog and show examples of them.
- Take a picture walk through the paintings of this book before reading aloud.

Questions before reading:

- What do you know about the country called Russia?
- Have you heard of a breed of dog called a Wolfhound?
- What is the weather like in a blizzard?
- What do you do during a blizzard in Minnesota?

To Introduce this story say: We're going to read a story about a young boy named Pavel from Russia who rescues a wolfhound during a blizzard.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- Why do you think Pavel rescued the wolfhound?
- Why was Pavel's father worried about Pavel's rescue of the wolfhound?
- Why did Pavel decide to return the wolfhound to the Tsar?
- Why did the wolfhound rescue Pavel from the wolves?
- Who was the man on the horse?
- How did Pavel feel when he heard the man's voice?
- What did you think the surprise gift would be?
- Were you surprised at the book's ending?
- How did the paintings help you understand the story?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Art:

- Draw or paint a blizzard.
- Sketch a wolfhound.

Culture:

- Look at a world map and locate Russia - the setting of this book.
- Look at a Minnesota map and locate the author's home: Hibbing, Minnesota.
- Research Russian culture at the time that the story is set.

Writing:

- Write about what will happen next to Pavel and his new puppy.
- Write about a time when you were outside during a snowstorm.

**Suggestions for
English Language
Learners:**

- Pay special attention to the unusual vocabulary in the story to help children with meaning.
- Think of various synonyms to share as you read the story if the children have difficulty understanding.

Related Books:

- ***Babushka Baba Yaga*** by Patricia Polacco (Philomel, 1993)
- ***Dogs of Myth: Tales from Around the World*** by Gerald and Loretta Hausman, illustrated by Barry Moser (Simon & Schuster, 1999)
- ***Kashtanka*** by Anton Chekhov, illustrated by Gennady Spirin (Gulliver Books, 1995)
- ***The Littlest Matryoshka*** by Corrine Demas Bliss, illustrated by Kathryn Brown (Hyperion, 1999)
- ***Lost Tales: Stories for the Tsar's Children*** by Gleb Botkin (Random House, 1996)
- ***The Three Questions*** by John Muth (Scholastic, 2002)
- ***The Tale of the Firebird*** by Gennady Spirin (Philomel Books, 2002)



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