

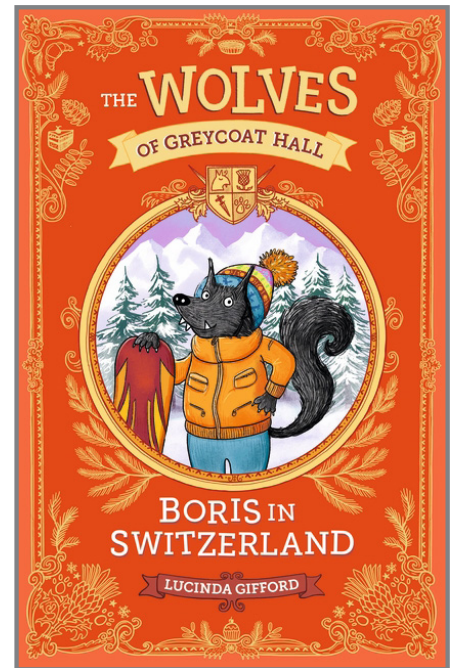
The Wolves of Greycoat Hall: Boris in Switzerland

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
LUCINDA GIFFORD

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

Boris is attending the Institute of International Excellence, a fancy Swiss boarding school while his parents are staying with Great Aunt Orfilia. Although worried about being the only wolf, and having to navigate around the rude vice principal, he quickly makes friends, learns how to âlog inâ and heli-board, and has plentiful supply of cake, Boris can't shake the idea that something funny is going on . . .

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Lucinda Gifford is the author and illustrator of many well-loved children's books. She was brought up in the north of Scotland, where there are a million times more seagulls than humans. To get away from the seagulls, Lucinda went to Edinburgh to study architecture. After this she had a fantastically successful career in advertising, coming up with over-the-top campaign ideas and doodling masterpieces on a big pad of paper. Years later, Lucinda realised that her favourite things were doodling and exaggerating. So she put some of her best drawings and most unlikely stories in a folio and started looking for work in children's books.

Lucinda has since illustrated over 30 books, eight of which she has also written. She lives in Melbourne. But sometimes, from her studio, she can still hear the squawk of the gulls and the roar of the North Sea. Her favourite things to draw include wolves, dragons and castles.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the novel, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. Think about the following after reading the opening scene of the novel:

- Which character/s are we introduced to?
- What mood is the author setting?
- Write down all the descriptive words the author has used to describe the characters and setting.
- It is the author's job to create trouble for their characters. They need to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. As a class discuss the following questions:
 - What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw a picture of a character from the book and then describe their personality in five words. Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person? Did you use the same words?
- As a class, gather all your drawings together. Do your drawings look different from the illustrators drawings. Did the illustrator draw the characters how you imagined them to look?
- Consider the world the author has created in this novel. Can you describe it?
 - How is it different to the world you live in?
 - Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?
 - How important were the illustrations in creating the world in this novel?
- How does the story conclude (resolution)?
 - Compare the ending of the story with the predictions you made after looking at the cover.
 - Were you surprised by where the story went?
- Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently?
- Make a list of new words in the book that you didn't know the meaning of. Write some sentences using the words.