

## GOLDEN WOLF AND GHOST BEAR

Golden Wolf was good at fighting crime. He had his best friend, Ghost Bear, to help him which came in very handy.

They lived in the Northern Forest with all the other forest animals but life wasn't always easy there. The winters were icy and cold and the summers hot and dry and the rest of the time it rained. Now someone was stealing their food and what was worse someone really evil was burning down their trees. What was to be done?

"We need to find out who is doing this," said Polly Porcupine, shaking her bristles.

"I agree," said Harry Hedgehog, "and I know just the animal to do it - Golden Wolf! He's good at finding criminals."

The deer, badgers, foxes, birds, snails and bugs all agreed. Golden Wolf and Ghost Bear must save their forest and their source of food. But they would need a plan.

"Ghost Bear," said Golden Wolf next day, "we need a plan in order to find these criminals. We could prowl through the forest at night and check for prowlers."

"Prowlers?" asked Ghost Bear.

"People or animals who prowl," explained Golden Wolf.

"But we prowl, too," said Ghost Bear.

"But we do it for a good reason. The criminals are doing it for a bad reason. They're stealing our food! They're burning our forest! We've got to do something!" Golden Wolf was getting really angry now.

"Okay," replied Ghost Bear, "so let's prowl."

That night was very dark and spooky but the full moon lit their way. Golden Wolf and Ghost Bear prowled this way and that, looking for anything or anybody suspicious.

Suddenly they saw a strange-looking creature, in fact, three strange-looking creatures slinking along, creeping through the undergrowth.

“Can you see who it is?” whispered Golden Wolf.

Ghost Bear shook his head. “Let me go and look.”

“But what if they see you?” asked Golden Wolf. “They might attack you.”

“I’m a ghost bear, remember?” replied his friend. “I can become invisible. That’s my magic power.”

“True,” said Golden Wolf, “but I can turn myself into a stone statue so they can’t hurt me. That’s my magic power.”

“Well,” thought Ghost Bear out loud, “maybe we should go together then.”

So they followed the creeping, crawling creatures until they stopped in a forest clearing. The moon was shining through the trees and Golden Wolf recognised the Night Crawler, the creepiest of the criminals.

Ghost Bear thought he heard Slimy Slurp, a slug-like creature who was really gross. The third member of the gang sounded like Creaky Cruncher, who always gave herself away by creaking and groaning. And she was usually crunching on some poor little animal. They seemed to be up to something.

Just then Night Crawler lit a match. He edged closer to a tree and a brilliant light filled the night sky. The evil criminal was trying to burn down another tree! Slimy Slurp and Creaky Cruncher were jumping up and down, laughing. How dare they!

Golden Wolf and Ghost Bear started throwing anything and everything they could find - stones, rocks, pine cones.

“No, not pine cones!” shouted Golden Wolf “They’ll burn!”

“Oops, sorry!” apologised Ghost Bear. “But we’ve got to stop those guys!”

“We need more animals to help. Go get the squirrels!” whispered Golden Wolf to Ghost Bear.

“Right,” said Ghost Bear and disappeared.

Meanwhile the three criminals had been wondering about the shower of rocks and stones. “Hmmm, these stones aren’t very tasty,” said Creaky Cruncher, spitting them out.

“But,” snarled Night Crawler, “we can put these pine cones on our fire!”

“There’s someone here,” announced Slimy Slurp who had slithered towards Golden Wolf. “That’s strange. It’s a statue of a wolf.”

Golden Wolf had use his magical powers and turned himself into a growling stone statue. He looked pretty fierce but no one could hurt him, no matter how hard they tried.

“Ow!” cried Night Crawler who had tried to thrash Golden Wolf. “That hurt!”

“Well, it’s a statue!” explained Slimy Slurp. “Made out of stone!” Night Crawler might be a really evil criminal but he could be a bit slow.

The squirrels had arrived. Ghost Bear sent them up the trees with tiny pebbles and rotten, squishy apples to throw at the criminals. Then he noticed the statue of Golden Wolf.

“Psst!” Ghost Bear whispered. “Why are you still a statue?”

“Wait and see,” Golden Wolf whispered back.

Meanwhile the criminals were being pelted with pebbles and rotten apples and not liking it. Two of them scattered, leaving Night Crawler on his own, trying to stoke the fire.

Suddenly there was a huge crash. The statue of Golden Wolf fell on to the fire putting it out completely. A huge “Whoosh!” catapulted Nigh Crawler into the darkness.

Golden Wolf turned himself back into a real wolf, a golden wolf. He waved his paws in the air and Ghost Bear did a little dance.

They thanked the squirrels and then prowled off into the forest, a job well done!