

Once upon a time there lived a wolf. He lived in the forest. The wolf was the meanest creature in the forest. He ate all of the little creatures that he could find. He would chase them. Then he would box them in a corner. The poor little animals were frozen with fear. Then the wolf would slowly gobble them up. The animals did not stand a chance of getting away from the horrible wolf.

One day the wolf wanted to eat a little squirrel. He chased the poor animal round and round in circles. Soon the poor thing fell on the ground. He could barely breathe. The wolf slowly went toward the squirrel. He bent over the squirrel. He began to eat the squirrel. After he finished he licked his paws and lips. Then he felt something stick in his throat. It must have

been a bone. It was very sharp. The wolf was in great pain. He could hardly breathe.

He walked from animal to animal. He asked for help from each one of them. No one would help the wolf. The wolf had just been too mean. They did not care that the wolf was in pain.

The wolf cried and howled and would soon die if he did not get the bone out of his throat. Then he saw a crane. A crane is a sea bird. He has a long, thin neck. The wolf ran to the crane. "Oh, crane, please save my life. I have a bone in my throat. I cannot breathe. You have a long, thin neck. Please reach in and pull out the bone. I will give you anything that you want. I promise!" said the wolf.

The crane was worried. He did not want the wolf to play a trick on him. What if the wolf were lying? If

the crane put his neck down the throat of the wolf, the wolf might eat him. Then the wolf fell to the ground. The crane saw that he was dying. "I will get it out," said the crane. He put his head down the wolf's throat. He soon found the bone. He pulled it out. The wolf began to feel better. The crane smiled. "What will you give me in return for saving your life?" asked the crane. "I will give you nothing," said the wolf. He laughed and ran off into the forest. The crane knew that the next time the wolf needed help, no one would give it to him.

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