Romulus, the lonely wolf

Authors **Rocío Antón** and **Lola Núñez** / Illustrations **Paz Rodero** / 28 pages / Book Series **Tales of the Old Oak**

Objectives

- To **understand and enjoy the main idea of the story.**

- To **teach the importance of friendship.**

- To **teach how to talk about a variety of emotions and feelings.**

Word bank

Key vocabulary

Nouns: wolf/wolves, forest, tree, mountain, river, reeds, moon, rock, cave, mouse, game, echo, spring, family, footprints, track.

Verbs: to escape, to cross, to howl, to hear, to shout, to run away, to appear, to climb, to hear, to invite, to travel, to look for, to smile, to learn.

Adjectives: trapped, alone, happy, terrified, big, bad, funny, lonely, sad, old.

Tips and ideas

Before reading

- **Mime a Feeling!** Miming activities are an excellent way to pre-teach vocabulary related to emotions and feelings. Explain to your students the meaning of the adjectives bellow and then put your students in pairs. One student mimes the feeling and the other tries to guess how he/she feels.

trapped	happy
terrified	lonely
sad	funny

During reading

- **Invent the Titles.** When you read the story to your students, add a significant pause after each important part. Ask your students to suggest a title for each part. Some ideas could be: "Romulus is trapped", "Romulus is alone", "The animals are terrified", etc.

After reading

- **Draw a Story Map.** As the story progresses, Romulus moves from one place to another:

  – (escapes from) **the mountain.**

  – (crosses) **the river.**

  – (gets trapped) **in reeds.**

  – (howls) **on the rock**.

  – (sleeps) **in a cave.**

  – (hides) **behind the tree**.

  – (walks) **through the forest**.

  – (finds his family) **in a cave.**

  Put your students in small groups and ask them to draw a geographical map of the story and indicate all the places where Romulus was. Tell them to include arrows to indicate how Romulus was moving and to number the places in chronological order. Exhibit their work on the classroom wall.
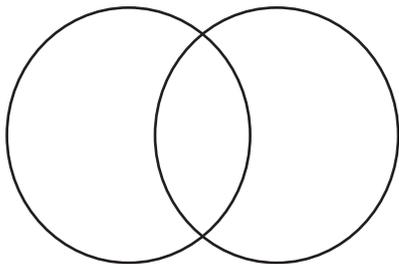
Great Games: "Animal Memory"

- In the collection "Tales of the Old Oak" you will find pictograms of practically all forest animals: a wolf, a hedgehog, a rabbit, a squirrel, a butterfly, a mouse, etc. Photocopy the pictograms and make a set of small playing cards. You should have two of each card in each set.

- Divide your students into groups of four and give each group a set of cards to play the memory game in English.

CLIL Link: Science

Comparing and Contrasting

- Ask your students to think about another famous story in which a wolf is one of the characters (The Three Little Pigs). Revise it briefly and make sure that all students are familiar with it.

- Divide students into small groups and give each group a large sheet of paper. Ask them to draw two big over-lapping circles:

- Explain to them that it is called a Venn diagram. Tell them to put the title of the two stories at the top of each circle. Explain that Venn diagrams are used to compare and contrast things.

  N.B. If you had already read the story "Michelle, the shy frog" with the class, they would be familiar with Venn diagrams.

- To practice, ask your students to compare the wolf's characteristics and behaviour in "The Three Little Pigs" with "Romulus, the lonely wolf". The things that both wolves have in common (e.g. they are alone, they don't play with other animals, they are big and scary) will be written in the overlapping part of the circles.

English Theatre: "I don't want to be alone!"

Characters: Romulus, Mummy and Daddy Wolf, Mouse, Animals.

SCENE 1

Animals: Fire, fire! Help! We have to go!

(Shout desperately and pretend they are running away.)

Mummy and Daddy Wolf: Kids, quickly! We have to cross the river!

(Romulus goes with them, but he is trapped in reeds.)

Romulus: Help, I'm trapped! I'm trapped!

(Shouts desperately, but the wolves go away.)

Romulus: Where are you? Where are you? I'm alone!

(Shouts and then starts to howl.)

SCENE 2

Mouse: Hello, I'm a mouse. Who are you?

Romulus: My name is Romulus. I'm a wolf.

Mouse: Help! The big bad wolf! The big bad wolf!

(Runs away terrified.)

Animals: The big bad Wolf! Run! Run!

(All the animals run away and Romulus is chasing them.)

SCENE 3

Romulus: I'm so lonely! I'm so sad!

(Romulus is watching other animals playing and looks very sad.)

Romulus: I have an idea! I will find my family! I will follow their footprints.

(Pretends to be observing something on the floor and then sees his parents.)

Mummy and Daddy Wolf: Welcome back, Romulus! Stay with us!

(They give each other a big hug.)