



AN ADVENTURE WITH WOLVES

NEARLY a hundred years ago, in one of the early settlements of this Province, then called Upper Canada, an exciting adventure befell a young lad only ten years of age.

The brave boy was on his return home with a pair of oxen, with which he had been assisting a neighbour, living about six miles from his father's house.

His road lay along the river bank, which was dreary enough in the fall of the year, and more so as darkness was coming on; but the child saw the deepening shades sink into night without feeling any fear.

He was trudging on steadily, singing cheerfully as he walked, when a sound came on the night air which sent a shiver through his frame—the fierce cry of wolves.

At first he hoped that he was not the object of pursuit; but the hideous uproar came nearer and nearer; and then he knew that he must instantly adopt some plan for his escape.

His route lay by the river shore, and he could swim well; but the night was dark, and he might be hurried into the rapids; and to be dashed to pieces on the rocks was scarcely less dreadful than to be mangled and devoured by wolves.

He prayed to God for guidance, and then he mounted Buck, the near-ox. He used his goad, shouting at the same time to the animal to urge him to his utmost speed.

In most cases, Buck would have flung off his rider; but now he set off with the speed of a race-horse, as if fully aware of his young rider's peril, to say nothing of his own. Nor was the companion ox less tardy.

Fast, however, as the trio fled, still faster came on the yelling pack behind, their long, hard gallop being heard more and more distinctly.

Fortunately for the boy, the oxen heard it, too, and dashed on and on; but still the wolves came nearer and nearer.

The boy shouted to keep them off; the oxen were straining every muscle; their chains rattled as they hurried on. This clanking sound, to which the hateful pack were unaccustomed, made them pause whenever they came close upon the oxen, whilst the latter redoubled their speed.

At length these gallant racers brought the brave little fellow to his own door; and the wolves were left behind in the forest to seek elsewhere for their prey.



An Adventure with Wolves – Questions

Read the attached short story “An Adventure with Wolves,” and discuss the following questions: (Note: the answers are at the bottom of the page)

1. What was the age of the boy?
2. What noise scared off the wolf?
3. How far did the boy have to travel to get home?
4. What is the name of the oxen that the boy rode?
5. What was the name of the province where the boy lived?
6. **BONUS:** Upper Canada is what province now?