

## Story 16: Leyla and the Wolf

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Representing: *Refugees (Syrian)*

### The Story:

One day Leyla wanted to take food to her sick grandmother. She put the food her mother had prepared in a basket and set off. There were two different ways to get to her grandmother's house. The longer one was a safe and quiet road. The other was a shortcut, but fraught with many dangers. Her mother advised Leyla to take the longer, safer route and to avoid the dangerous one.

But Leyla said to herself, "What can happen? Wouldn't it be better to take the shortcut and get to my grandmother's house right away instead of taking such a long way?" and took the shortcut.

On her way, she met a friend and told her that she was on her way to her grandmother's house to bring food to her sick grandmother. Meanwhile, a wolf hiding behind the trees was listening to Leyla and her friend's conversation. Learning Leyla's destination and path, the wolf acted fast and went to her grandmother's house before Leyla and ate the sick and old woman. Then he made a plan to wait for Leyla who was coming there. He disguised himself as Leyla's grandmother and laid in her bed and waited for her.

After a while, Leyla came to her grandmother's house. Finding her grandmother lying in bed, Leyla asked her, "How are you, grandma, are you okay?" The wolf tried to imitate the old woman's voice and said "I'm fine, my child". However, Leyla noticed something strange in her grandmother's voice and asked her:

"Grandma, why is your voice so strange?"

"Because I am sick," the wolf replied.

While talking to her, Leyla started to get closer to the bed and noticed that her grandmother's nose looked different and asked her:

"Grandma, why is your nose so big?"

"To smell you better," the wolf replied.

"And why are your ears so big?" asked Leyla.

"To hear you better," replied the Wolf again.

Growing suspicious, Leyla asked one more time:

"And why is your mouth so big?"

Suddenly jumping out of bed, the wolf shouted "so I can eat you more easily!" and grabbed Leyla and ate her too.



Meanwhile, a hunter passing by heard the shouting and came to the house. Finding the wolf in the house, dressed in the clothes of an old woman, he killed the wolf and pulled Leyla and her grandmother out of the wolf's stomach.

**Story Moral:** (i) Children should listen to and obey their parents. (ii) It is better to take the safer path even if it is longer than to take a dangerous shortcut. (iii) Speaking loudly in public might be dangerous as there are bad people with bad intentions who may hear you.

