The Shepherd Boy and the Wolf
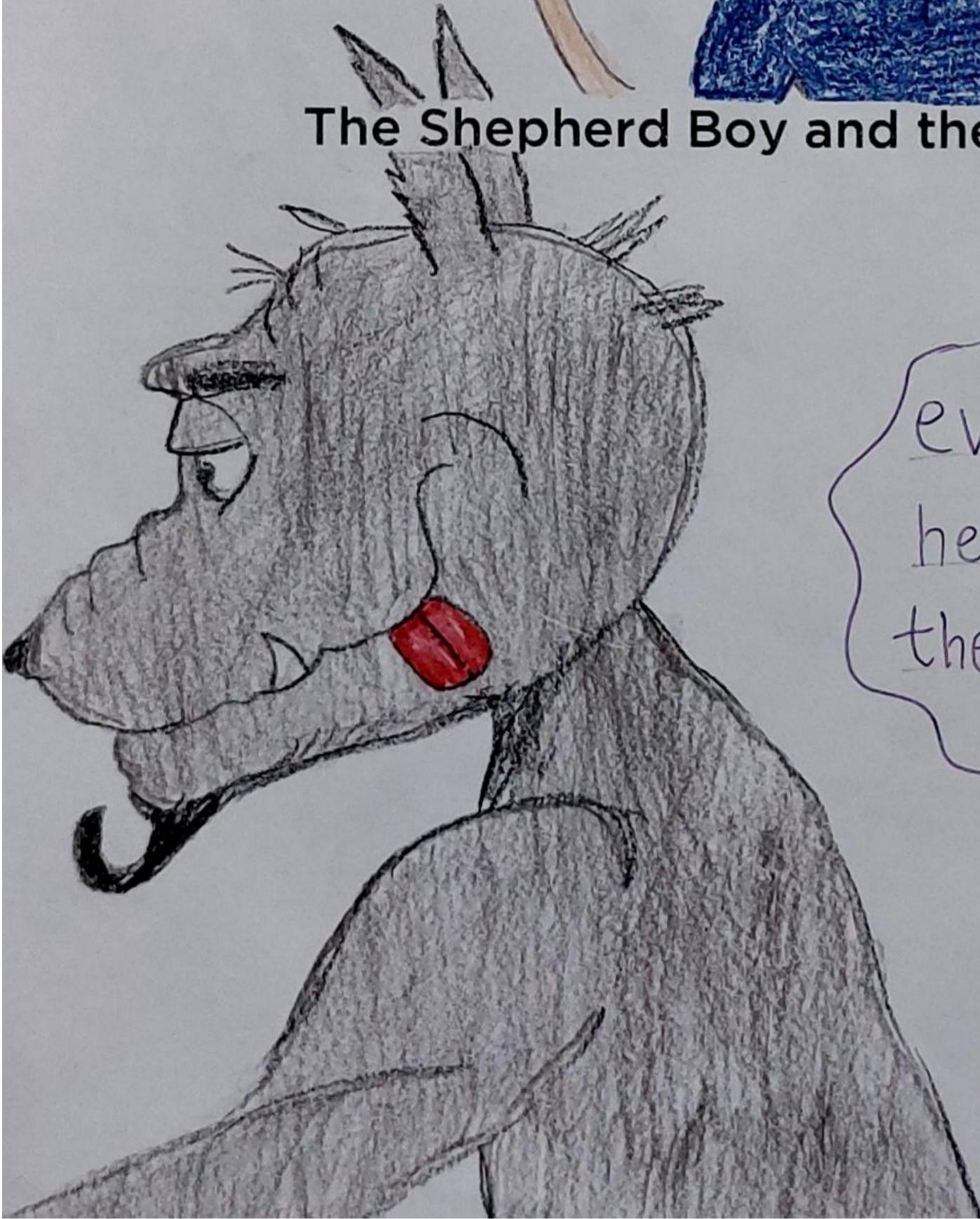
A Shepherd Boy tended his master's Sheep
near a dark forest not far from the village.
Soon he found life in the pasture very dull.
All he could do to amuse himself was to talk to
his dog or play on his shepherd's pipe.

One day as he sat watching the Sheep and the quiet
forest, and thinking what he would do should he see a
Wolf, he thought of a plan to amuse himself.

His Master had told him to call for
help should a Wolf attack the flock,
and the Villagers would drive it away.

So now, though he had not seen anything that
even looked like a Wolf, he ran toward the village
shouting at the top of his voice, "Wolf! Wolf!"

As he expected, the Villagers who heard the cry dropped their work and ran in great excitement to the pasture. But when they got there they found the Boy doubled up with laughter at the trick he had played on them.

A few days later the Shepherd Boy
again shouted, "Wolf! Wolf!"
Again the Villagers ran to help him, only
to be laughed at again.

Then one evening as the sun was setting behind the forest and the shadows were creeping out over the pasture, a Wolf really did spring from the underbrush and fall upon the Sheep.
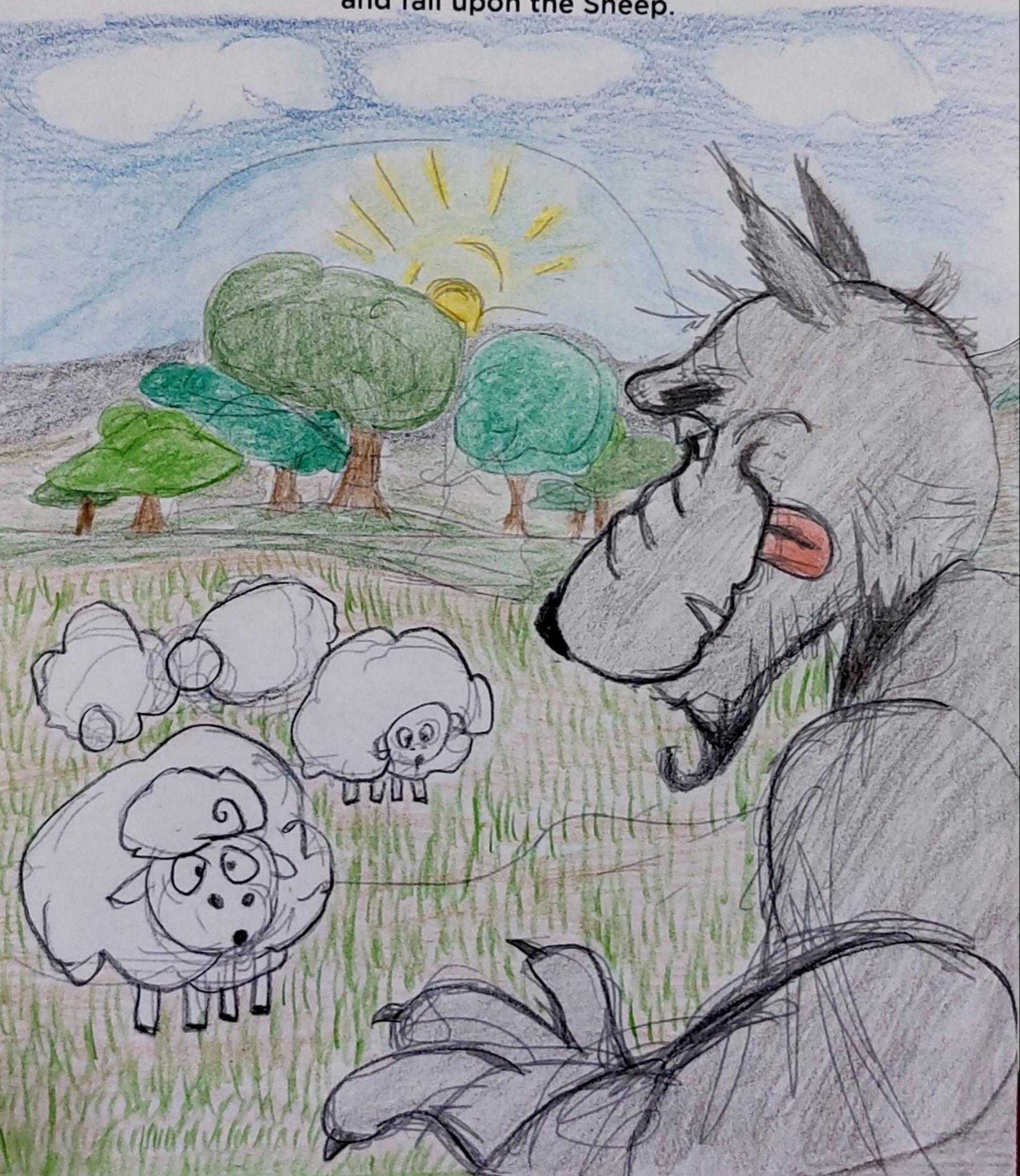
In terror the Boy ran toward the village shouting
"Wolf! Wolf!" But though the Villagers heard the cry,
they did not run to help him as they had before. "He
cannot fool us again," they said.

The Wolf killed a great many of the Boy's sheep and
then slipped away into the forest.