

Grade 3 Narrative

Thurber, James. *The Thirteen Clocks*. Illustrated by Marc Simont. New York: New York Review Children's Collection, 2008. (1950) From Chapter 1

Once upon a time, in a gloomy castle on a lonely hill, where there were thirteen clocks that wouldn't go, there lived a cold aggressive Duke, and his niece, the Princess Saralinda. She was warm in every wind and weather, but he was always cold. His hands were as cold as his smile and almost as cold as his heart. He wore gloves when he was asleep, and he wore gloves when he was awake, which made it difficult for him to pick up pins or coins or kernels of nuts, or to tear the wings from nightingales. He was six feet four, and forty-six, and even colder than he thought he was. One eye wore a velvet patch; the other glittered through a monocle, which made half of his body seem closer to you than the other half. He had lost one eye when he was twelve, for he was fond of peering into nests and lairs in search of birds and animals to maul. One afternoon, a mother shrike had mauled him first. His nights were spent in evil dreams, and his days were given to wicked schemes.

Wickedly scheming, he would limp and cackle through the cold corridors of the castle, planning new impossible feats for the suitors of Saralinda to perform. He did not wish to give her hand in marriage, since her hand was the only warm hand in the castle. Even the hands of his watch and the hands of all the thirteen clocks were frozen. They had all frozen at the same time, on a snowy night, seven years before, and after that it was always ten to five in the castle. Travelers and mariners would look up at the gloomy castle on the lonely hill and say, "Time lies frozen there. It's always Then. It's never Now."

Grade 3 Informational

Wolves Home Again

WYOMING DAILY PRESS

December 2008

by Doug Shokes

Good things have come from bringing wolves back to Yellowstone National Park. One good thing is the return of two kinds of trees, which grow only near streams. They had nearly disappeared since the wolves were gone. There was a reason for this.

The wolves scare away elk, which are animals that eat trees growing out of the ground. Now elk avoid spending time near streams in the park. They have no place to run from wolves there. The trees that disappeared near streams now grow in the park.

Yellowstone National Park, "America's first national park," is in the northwest part of Wyoming. It spreads into Idaho and Montana. It became a park in 1872. The park is beautiful and has many visitors. The land was a home for wolves for a long time.

Wolves were common in the park at first. As time went on, the wolves began dying out. By 1926, no wolves could be found. People who lived near Yellowstone killed them because the wolves would eat the animals the people had raised to sell.

In 1995, many people joined forces to bring back the wolves. They were people who cared about animals and the health of the land. At first, this was only a dream since there were no wolves in the park!

Wolves were in Canada, which is north of the United States. People went to Canada to capture wolves. They brought them back to the park and let them go. They kept close track of the wolves' actions. When a wolf died, they would figure out the reason. A lot was done to protect the wolves from harm.

Yet, ranchers also complained that the wolves were eating their animals. In 1997, they tried to get rid of the wolves by passing a law to remove them from the park. The law was never passed.

Now, there are many wolves in Yellowstone National Park. The land is healthier, and the wolves have their home back.