The Wolf

By: Brittany Boeckman

In the book *The Wolf* by Steven Herrick the main character Lucy is like an outcast in her family. Almost every day Lucy goes down by the river to read and watches her little brother Peter play. When she comes home he dad is always very angry for various reasons, the main reason he gets mad in this book it’s because he keeps loosing sheep. He believes that there is a wolf out there in the mountains eating his sheep. Lucy thinks he’s crazy at first because wolves don’t live in Australia. Lucy’s dad is also an alcoholic; he’s one of those mean alcoholics who will beat their children up because of it. Lucy is the only child who gets beat up, her mom does too but her little brother doesn’t get touched.

Lucy’s dad will come home after a long day of trying to kill the wolf, eat dinner, and yell at Lucy to start doing the dishes and her chores, then, get drunk in front of the T.V. and go to bed. The next day the same thing repeats. Lucy is sick and tired of her dad coming home and blaming everything on her and getting beat day after day. So one day she decides when she’s reading across the river and watching her brother play that she’s going to find this “wolf” before her dad. She decides that when she gets home she will pack a lunch and set out early in the morning before her mom and dad wake up and meet Jake by the river.

Jake is one of her neighbors who have a farm not too far away from hers. Jakes parents don’t like Lucy’s parents that much, well mainly they don’t like her father because he isn’t very nice and what not. Jakes parents end up giving him the o.k. with him going out into the mountains with Lucy. Lucy doesn’t need permission from anyone because her parents simply don’t really care where she is at any given time. When Lucy and Jake are on their way up the mountain, Jake slips and hurts his ankle. It’s almost dark and Lucy wouldn’t have enough time to go back to Jakes house for help, so Lucy walks a little farther and finds a cave. She carries Jake back to the cave and they rest there for the night. The next day they head back to Jakes house for help. Jakes dad thanks Lucy and Lucy heads home.

When she returns Peter is asking her all about her experience in the cave with Jake and how he thought it would be so cool to be there. Then, as Lucy is helping her mom with dinner her mom tells her that her dad went looking for her last night because she didn’t return home. When he returned home Lucy’s mom finally had enough of the beatings and getting blamed, so she stood up for herself and for Lucy. She kicked him out of the house for good.

*The Wolf* was actually a pretty entertaining story. It did have a little bit of a romance part too it but it wasn’t long so it didn’t kill the story. I picked this book because it is in the form of a poem but it still has an easy story line to it also. I would recommend this book to anyone who has to read an Australian book because it’s easy, easy to follow and also easy to relate to also. I think probably a majority of families in America also have experienced abuse and too much alcohol use. I think most Americans would say the same. If your one of the lucky people who hasn’t experienced it, I would tell you to read this book to just get an idea of how it can be very frustrating on some people.