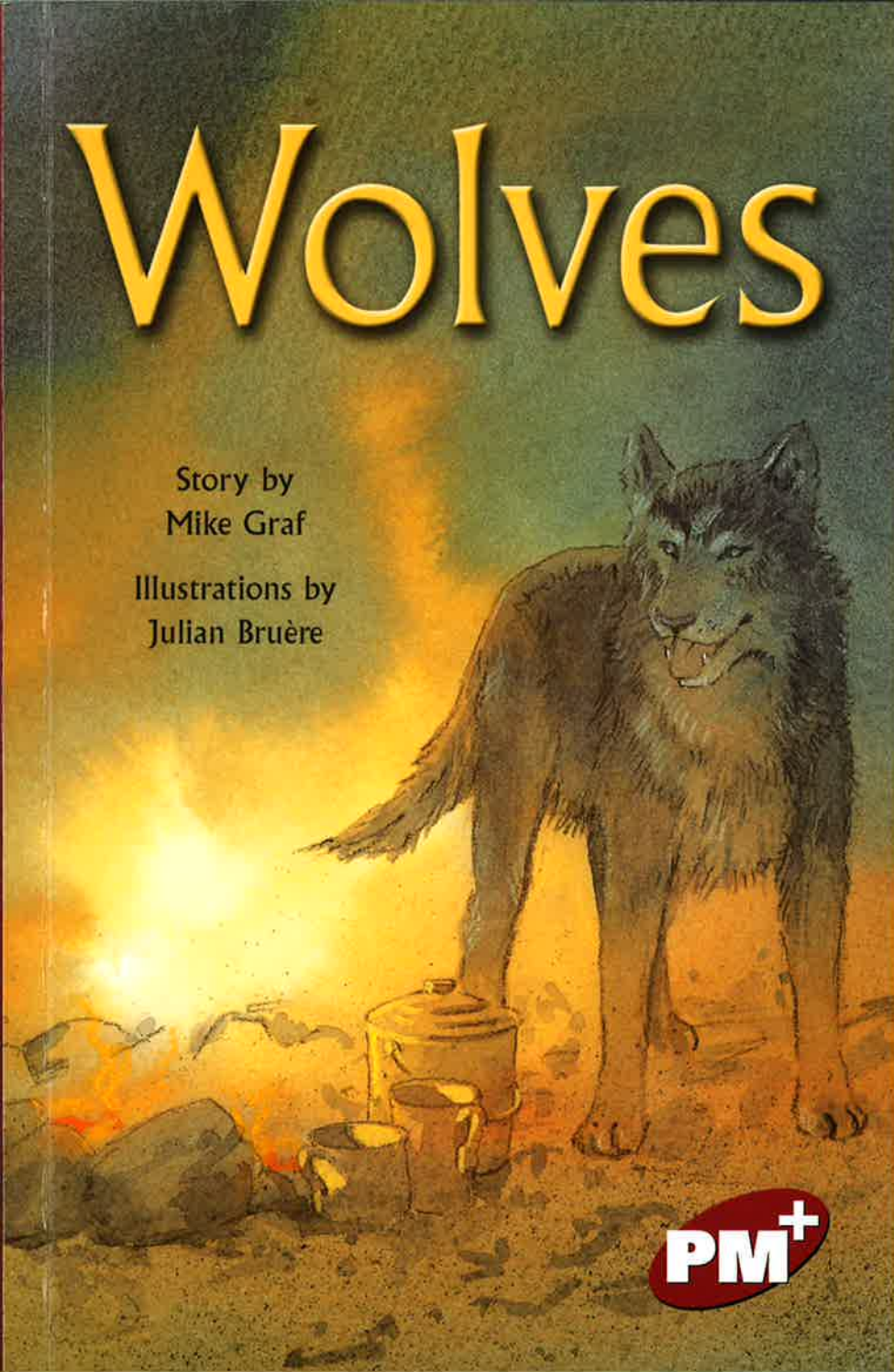
# Wolves

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CHAPTER 1

# Howls in the Night



*Ah ooooo … Ah ooooo …*

Kaitlyn sprang up in her sleeping bag.

*Ah ooooo … oooo …*

She sat and listened to the eerie howls outside her tent.

*Ah ooooo …* There it was again. "Dad?" Kaitlyn whispered, her heart starting to pound.

*Ah ooooo … oooo …*

"Dad?" Kaitlyn whispered again. She turned towards her father. But all she heard was a little snore.





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Slowly, Kaitlyn slithered back down into her sleeping bag. She pulled the covers up to her chin and listened to the howling.

*Ah ooooo … ooo … Ah ooooo … ooo …*

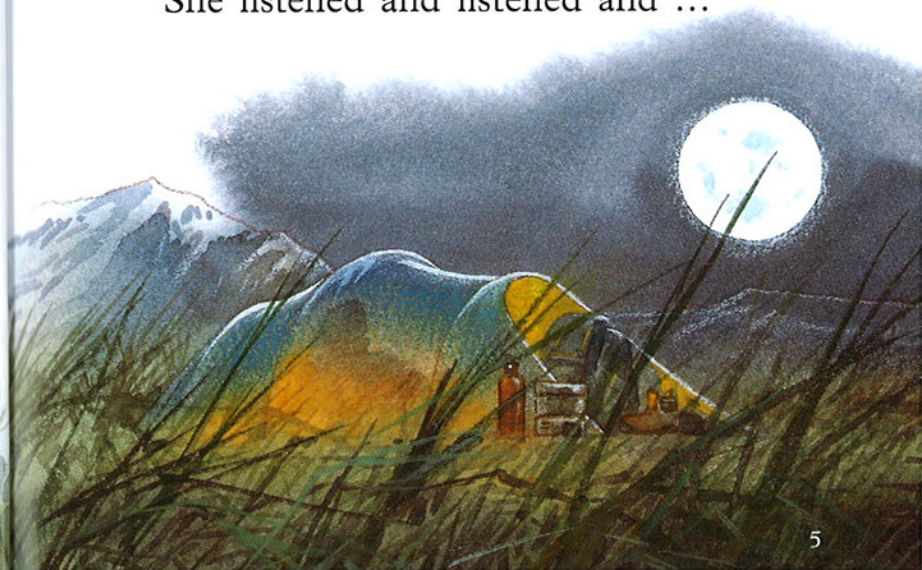
Kaitlyn shut her eyes, then opened them. Her heart was beating wildly. She shut her eyes again.

Her father moved.

Kaitlyn opened her eyes and whispered, "Dad?" But he didn't answer. Kaitlyn shut her eyes again. Her breathing slowed down.

*Ah ooooo … oooo … oooo …*

She listened and listened and …



CHAPTER 2

# Heaven's Peak



The warm sun shone through the tent. Kaitlyn turned over and opened her eyes. Dad was gone. She quickly sat up, got dressed, and scrambled outside.

Dad was flipping pancakes on a small gas stove. "Good morning, Sunshine," he said.

"Hi, Dad," Kaitlyn replied. "How'd you sleep?"

"Great! I didn't wake up all night. Are you hungry?"





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Kaitlyn sat on a large rock next to Dad. He handed her some pancakes and a bottle of maple syrup. She soaked her pancakes in the syrup, and ate them hungrily.

Dad yawned and stretched. "Ah! There's nothing like the great outdoors. It sure gives me an appetite!"

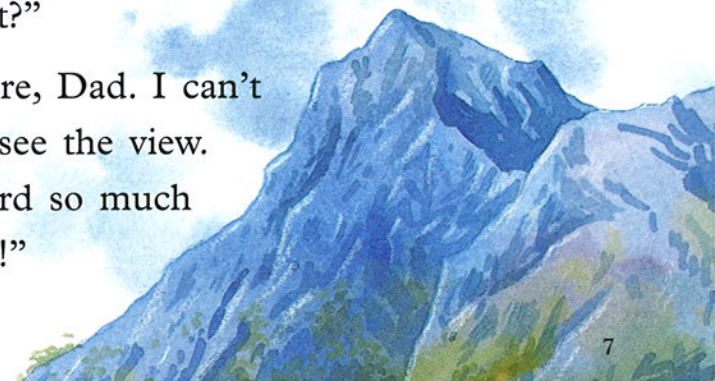
"You always say that," laughed Kaitlyn.

"Because it's true," Dad answered. "Hey, are you up for a nice long hike today?"

"Is that the mountain you want to climb?" Kaitlyn asked, looking up at the jagged peak towering above their campsite.

"That's the one," Dad answered. "Heaven's Peak. I haven't climbed it since I was a ranger here in college. So – are you up for it?"

"Sure, Dad. I can't wait to see the view. I've heard so much about it!"



CHAPTER 3

# "See You at the Top!"



"I'll see you at the top!" Kaitlyn called down to Dad. She scrambled up the last few feet of the rocky slope.

When she reached the summit, Kaitlyn walked around. Surrounding the mountain were deep green forests. Small lakes were scattered about in the wilderness far below. Distant mountains were speckled with snowfields and tiny glaciers. There were no signs of people anywhere. Now she knew why her father had talked about this place all these years. It was incredible!





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Kaitlyn pulled her camera out of her daypack and snapped several photos of the view – and of her father trudging up the last few feet of the trail. "Now everyone will know who got here first!" she laughed, as she took another picture.

Dad finally huffed his way to the top, and wiped the sweat from his brow. "Phew! I'm not as fit as I used to be."

"Yeah, Dad!" Kaitlyn joked. "You're not getting any younger, you know." She looked at his stomach. "You'd better start watching what you eat!"

"I watch every bite!" Dad patted his belly. He set down his daypack and took out a power bar. "Do you want one?"

"No, thanks," Kaitlyn replied.

