

QUESTIONS ABOUT
NEVER CRY WOLF
Part I

Farley Mowat describes his experience studying wolves in northern Canada. He writes with humor and exaggeration. As you read, keep in mind both the serious intent of Farley's message and how he makes his points. Here are examples from Chapter 1: He writes "When I was five years old I had still not given any indication – as most gifted children do well before that age – of where my future lay." and means, "I was not a gifted child." "My cousin, who...was some years older than myself, had already found his *métier*, which lay in the military field, and had amassed a formidable army of lead soldiers with which he was single-mindedly preparing himself to become a second Wellington. My loutish inability to play Napoleon exasperated him so much that he refused to have anything to do with me..." means that his cousin wanted him to play soldier but that Mowat was not willing to be always the loser at the battle of Waterloo. "Grandfather...could hear the word 'whiskey' if it were whispered in a room three stories removed from where he sat." means that his grandfather liked to drink.

Preface

1. Where are Keewatin Territory and Manitoba? How long does the author spend there?
2. Wolves once had a symbiotic relationship with humans and were the second most successful animal species. What changed that?

Chapter 1 – The Lupine Project

3. The book begins when the author is five. Describe his family.
4. What animals does he bring home to his grandparents' home? What is their fate?
5. Two men influenced the author's love for studying animals. What did those men study?
6. Where does he get his first job after college? Why there?
7. He is assigned to the "wolf problem." What is the problem with wolves?

Chapter 2 – Wolf Juice

8. Churchill is the Canadian city on the west coast of the Hudson Bay where tourists go to see polar bears. Why do the people of Churchill conclude Farley has come north?
9. What inconsistency is there in the telegram telling Farley to hold his to ten words?
10. Wolves, Farley learns from local residents are vicious creatures that will kill any type of human except one. Which one is that? How many caribou does a single wolf kill every year?
11. What is wolf-juice? To make his own wolf-juice, what substitution does Farley make?

Chapter 3 – Happy Landings

12. The pilot who flies Farley to his destination cannot get the heavy plane off the ground and leaves behind his reserve fuel. What does he NOT leave behind?

13. Where does the plane deposit Farley? What does he know about his exact location? How is he to get back to Churchill if the plane doesn't show up in the fall?

Chapter 4 – When is a Wolf Not a Wolf?

14. Farley's instructions are to proceed by canoe to make a survey of the wolf population of the surrounding area. What prevents him from accomplishing this task?

15. When he tries to radio for new instructions, where does the operator live who answers his call? When his message is forwarded to Ottawa, where is the reply sent? What is the outcome?

16. When Farley hears a pack of wolves approaching, where does he hide? What happens?

Chapter 5 – Contact

17. Farley has been found by a half-Eskimo/half-white hunter named Mike, who regards him with great distrust. How does Farley finally gain his trust, or at least some of it?

18. Mike leaves Farley in charge of his cabin, claiming the need to visit his sick mother seventy miles away. Why does he really leave?

19. Farley spends a whole week drawing up plans and uses most of his paper supply while doing so. Do you believe he might be reluctant to leave the cabin and look for real wolves?

20. He finds hundreds of caribou carcasses surrounding the cabin. Since he has been told that hunters almost never kill caribou, whom does he conclude has done the slaughter?

21. When the spring thaw comes, what happens inside the cabin?

22. Describe his first encounter with an arctic wolf.

Chapter 6 – The Den

23. What is his excuse for ending his second trip to the wolves? Is this his real reason?

24. What does he learn about the arctic wolf by reading available references?

25. The next time he goes out to find wolves, what supplies does he carry with him?

26. When he loses the wolf tracks he is following, what does he decide to do? Why?

27. He finally finds the wolves on an esker. What is an esker?

28. How many wolves are there? What are their sexes? What are they doing?

29. Farley discovers the wolves have a den, and he tries to get closer. What happens when the male wolf spots Farley? Farley writes, “the neck of my flask positively rattled against my teeth?” What do you think this flask contains?

Chapter 7 – The Watcher Watched

30. Farley takes a periscopic telescope on a tripod the next time he goes to observe the wolves. What is a periscopic telescope?

31. He spends most of the day observing the esker without ever seeing a wolf. Then he gets up to relieve himself. What does this idiom mean? What does he discover behind himself?

32. When Farley decides to visit the actual den, what does he discover?

33. What happens when he is discovered?

34. That night how does he “seek solace for my tattered nerves and frayed vanity”? What conclusion does he reach about how he will go forward with his research?

Chapter 8 – Staking the Land

35. What is Farley’s new observation post? Where does he set it up?

36. In his estimation, what is the most blood-thirsty beast in the arctic?

37. How do wolves mark the boundaries of their territory? How does Farley mark the boundaries of his own territory?

38. What does the wolf do when he discovers the boundary of Farley’s territory?