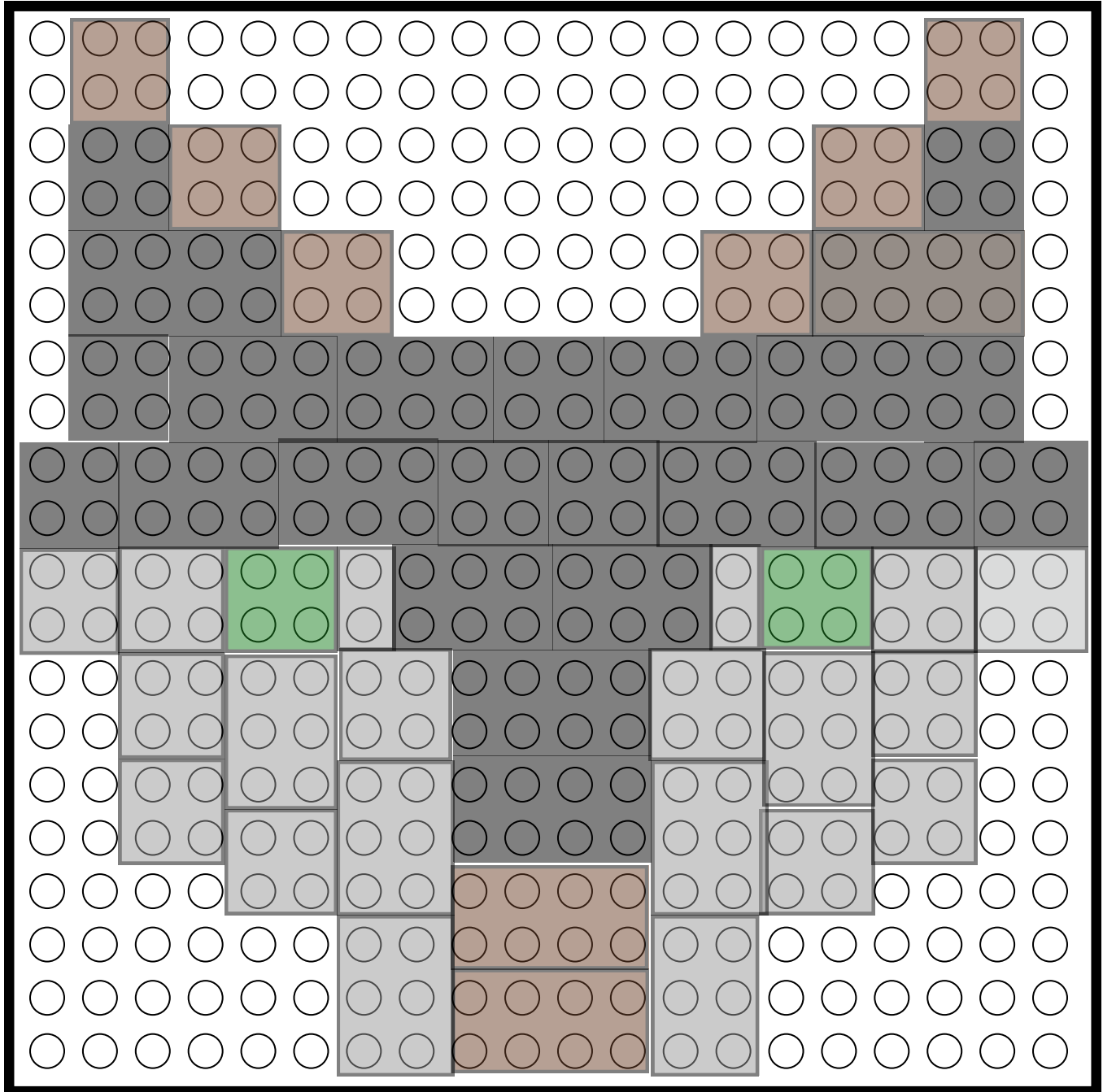


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The Shepherd Boy's Lesson



Once upon a time, there lived a young shepherd boy with a big job on his hands. His days were spent looking after a lively flock of sheep at the foot of a rugged mountain, just on the outskirts of town. The boy often felt a bit lonesome. To liven things up, he cooked up a clever plan to get the villagers to join him.

One day, the teenager decided to set his plan in motion. He shouted, "Wolf! Wolf!" at the top of his lungs, hoping to lure people out of their homes. Everyone hurried to the boy, racing towards the mountain. However, they found no sign of a wolf upon reaching the mountain.

On another dull day, the boy repeated the same act. Once again, he cried, "Wolf! Wolf!" The townspeople sprinted to the mountain like clockwork. Once more, they were disappointed; no wolf was in sight. The boy held his belly as he laughed at them because he enjoyed seeing them run.

The following day, when the boy returned to the mountain, a real wolf emerged and attacked the flock. The boy shouted in a louder voice, "Wolf! Wolf!" This time, not a single person went to the mountainside. The townspeople no longer believed his calls. The boy lost a sheep to the ruthless wolf. As the day ended, he returned home, overcome with sadness. The harsh lesson he learned is how liars are not believed, even when they tell the truth.