

Write a guided analysis of **one** of the following texts.

1.

The following text, a South African comic strip explores the lives and perspectives of characters navigating contemporary issues.



- How do text and image work together to portray the generation gap?

2.

This following article is adapted from National Geographic Online.

Myths about wolves, busted by experts



A young male wolf nicknamed Gray Mane, walks ahead of its pack in search of prey in the Canadian Arctic in 2018. This hunt lasted almost two days and covered some 65 miles.

Photograph By Ronan Donovan, National Geographic Image Collection.

5 Stories about wolves—some true, many not—have enlivened folktales for thousands of years, whether it's the Big Bad Wolf in Little Red Riding Hood or legends of werewolves hunting under the full moon. While the variations change over time—few modern children's books warn of wolves eating grandmothers—the stories inevitably paint the world's largest canine with a polarized brush.

In many cases, the deep-rooted mythology of wolves as villains can lead to broader misunderstandings. *National Geographic* asked wolf researchers to dispel some of the most common wolf myths.

10 **Myth 1: Wolves kill for fun**

While no wolf researcher claims to understand the feelings of an individual wild animal, the idea that wolves kill for fun—often referred to as surplus killing—isn't based on reality.

15 Wolves live on the fringe of nutritional deficiency, not starving, but also not layering on fat, according to Ken Mills, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's wolf biologist. "They're lean marathoners. They have to cover a lot of ground to find vulnerable prey and then catch it with their mouths, ... pull it down, and kill it. That is not easy," Mills says.

20 What's more, hunting large prey such as elk and moose is just plain dangerous. In Yellowstone, where humans cannot hunt wolves, injuries sustained during big game hunts are the second leading cause of death for the carnivores, says Kira Cassidy, a researcher with the Yellowstone Wolf Project, one of the longest, most detailed wolf studies in the world.

25 In Mills' 23 years working with wolves in Wyoming, Michigan, Ontario, and New Mexico, he has only investigated a couple of incidents of wolves killing more animals than they could eat.

Myth 2: Wolves are ecosystem saviors

30 The concept of trophic cascade has persisted since scientists reintroduced wolves into Yellowstone National Park in the 1990s. The basic idea is that when wolves no longer inhabit a landscape, ungulates such as deer, elk, and moose become abundant and damage meadows, mountainsides, and wetland areas.

Yet recent research shows the story just isn't so simple. Ecosystems like Yellowstone changed so fundamentally after the removal of wolves (and grizzly

35 bears) that, at least in some places, it could not return to its before state just by bringing these predators back, according to research published earlier this year in the journal *Ecological Monographs*.

The work, based on 20 years of research in Yellowstone, found that the landscape is in “an alternative stable state,” and has not returned to its previous one. “Wolves are an important component of a healthy ecosystem,” Cassidy says, “but their presence is not the only critical factor in the health, stability, or resilience of an area.”

Myth 3: Wolves attack people

45 Children’s movies like *Frozen* and *Beauty and the Beast* suggest wolves are a danger to people. In truth, a wolf attacking a person is exceedingly rare—two people have died in encounters with wolves in North America in the past century. Lightning, by contrast, kills about 28 Americans per year.

Gray wolves live across the northern portion of the globe, from the U.S. and Canada through Europe and Asia, and run-ins with people are equally rare in these environments. “My experience is they’re pretty terrified of people,” Cassidy says. “Or they are very wary to the point where most people won’t see one.”

50 No matter what people think of wolves, they’re simply another species on the landscape, —one trying to fill its belly just like the rest of us.

- How does the writer explain the misunderstanding most people have about wolves?

END OF PAPER

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References

1. <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-04-25-the-long-rewinding-road/> [Accessed on 17 July 2024].
2. Peterson, Christine, 2024. Myths of wolves, busted by experts. [image online] Available at <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/myths-gray-wolves-north-america-predators>. [Accessed on 17 July 2024].