

READER 1: Today, we are reading a fable by Aesop, a storyteller who lived over 2,500 years ago. He used animals in his stories, but they behaved like people.

READER 2: One of the animals in this story is a lion.

READER 1: The Lion was a powerful beast and feared by all the animals in the jungle. His power was as frightening as his roar.

3/LION: I'll rest now and hunt when it is cooler.

READER 2: The Lion found a quiet spot and soon went to sleep, but--he did not sleep soundly. He was always alert.

READER 1: While the Lion was "sleeping," two mice arrived. They were on their way to lunch.

4 AND 5/MICE: Chee-chee-chee.

4/FURRY MOUSE: Come to my house for lunch. I have lots of bread and cheese.

5/SCURRY MOUSE: Danger! Run!

4/FURRY MOUSE: Hey, What's wrong?

READER 2: While talking to his friend, Furry Mouse had walked right across Lion's nose. Lion opened his eyes, and with one swipe of his mighty paw, trapped poor Furry Mouse.

4/FURRY MOUSE: Oh, great Lion, good Lion, kind Lion, please let me go.

3/LION: Why should I?

4/FURRY MOUSE: If you will spare my life, I will help you some day.

READER 1: When the Lion heard this, he roared and he laughed.

3/LION: What could you do to help me? I am large and powerful. You are tiny and weak.

4/FURRY MOUSE: I will think of something. I will not forget your kindness if you spare my life.

READER 2: Being amused by the little mouse's offer, the great lion released Furry Mouse.

3/LION: You are brave. You make me laugh. You believe that you could help me? I will let you go.

4/FURRY MOUSE: Thank you great Lion, you will not be sorry.

READER 1: Furry Mouse quickly scampered to join his friend who was watching from a hiding place.

5/SCURRY MOUSE: I thought Lion would eat you.

4/FURRY MOUSE: I did too, but he was kind to me. I will never forget this day.