

(WHEN READERS ARE IN PLACE, THE READING BEINGS.)

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.

(LION GIVES A POWERFUL 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.

(LION PUTS HEAD ON HANDS AND CLOSES EYES. HE BREATHES RHYTHMICALLY, BUT OPENS HIS EYES OCCASIONALLY TO LET THE AUDIENCE KNOW THAT HE IS AWARE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING.)

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.

(SCURRY MOUSE GASPS LOUDLY.)

5/SCURRY MOUSE: Danger! Run!

(SCURRY MOUSE SLAPS HIS/HER LEGS ALTERNATELY TO
MAKE A RUNNING SOUND.)

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.

(FURRY MOUSE SCREECHES WHEN HE/SHE SEES THE LION.)

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.

(LION ROARS LOUDLY AND LAUGHS)

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

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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.

(LION ROARS AND HOLDS HANDS UP TO SHOW THE RELEASE OF THE 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.

(FURRY MOUSE SLAPS LEGS ALTERNATELY TO SOUND LIKE RUNNING STEPS. LION GIVES ANOTHER GREAT ROAR.)

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.

READER 2: The two mice scurried to their home chattering all the way. They talked about great lions and small mice and how they could live together.

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

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READER 1: Several months passed. The Lion continued to rule the jungle. He was proud and unafraid. His roar filled the jungle with sound and filled many animals with fright.

(LION ROARS LOUDLY TO THE LEFT AND TO THE RIGHT.)

READER 2: Now, when Furry Mouse heard Lion roar, he was happy.

4/FURRY MOUSE: Listen to Lion. He has a ferocious roar.

5/SCURRY MOUSE: It is a great roar, a great, scary roar. You are lucky Lion was kind to you.

READER 1: The mice were not the only ones to hear Lion roar. Hunters also heard the sound.

(LION ROARS; HUNTERS PUT HANDS TO EARS IN LISTENING POSE.)

6/HUNTER 1: Listen to that roar.

7/HUNTER 2: That is the roar of a great lion.

6/HUNTER 1: Let us set a trap for him.

7/HUNTER 2: Such a great lion would feed our families for many days.

(HUNTERS PUT HANDS ABOVE EYES IN LOOKING POSE, THEN PANTOMIME SETTING A TRAP.)

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READER 2: The hunters carefully placed the trap. They hoped to capture the great lion who ruled the jungle.

6/HUNTER 1: Now that our traps are ready, we must wait. We'll wait until the lion is trapped.

7/HUNTER 2: I would like to wait in a safe place, a place far from here. We will be able to hear his roar.

READER 1: So, the hunters left their traps and went to a safe place. After a few days, a great roar of pain and frustration was heard throughout the jungle.

(LION ROARS ANGRILY AND LOUDLY. HE ROARS TO THE LEFT AND TO THE RIGHT.)

READER 2: The birds heard Lion. The animals heard Lion. The hunters heard Lion, and Furry Mouse and Scurry Mouse heard Lion.

3/LION: Get me out of here. Get me out of here.

READER 1: When the hunters heard Lion roar, they said,

6 AND 7/HUNTERS: That's our Lion!

READER 2: When Furry Mouse heard Lion roar, he said,

4/FURRY MOUSE: That's my Lion!