

The Lion and the Mouse

As told by AGREE

The jungle was quiet, as the king pawed his way through tangled vines under shaded trees. Not a worry crossed his mind for he was big and mighty. There was no creature greater than he. He was a Lion. Lions can roam and eat unbothered by other creatures. One mighty roar and they all would scatter. So it was on this day that he was searching for an afternoon snack. He became sleepy and laid down to rest under a fruit tree.

Now in the distance the sound of pitter patter could be heard, quietly though. You have to listen very carefully to hear. Who was it? A Mouse, a petite, little mouse, scurrying here and there to find some food for her family. As Mouse came near to Lion, who was now deep in sleep and snoring, she saw the most delicious looking berries just above Lion's enormous mane. "If only I could climb to the top of Lion's mane without waking him up, I could reach those delicious berries and take them home to my little ones," Mouse thought.

So being brave, especially for one so small, Mouse began to carefully climb through Lion's mane...trying not to disturb him. But oh no! Right as Mouse reached the fruit and nearly grasped it with her tiny paw, she disturbed Lion's whiskers which caused Lion to let out an enormous sneeze! Mouse went flying into the air and right when she landed, Lion's huge paw came down on top of her. She was trapped. "What a tasty treat," Lion said, as he lifted Mouse high in the air. "Please put me down," Mouse said while twisting and wriggling. "If you put me down, I promise to help you if you ever need it!" Lion let out a big, rumbly laugh, "Har! Har! Har!" "How could an unimportant little creature ever help someone as grand as I?" he thought. But Lion didn't like it when his food argued with him, so he let Mouse go and ventured off to find something else to eat that was bigger and more quiet.

It wasn't too long before Lion did need help! Lion had come to the water hole to take a drink, when he felt his body rise higher and higher into the air. Lion was trapped in a hunter's net! Without any idea on how to escape, Lion began to roar and cry out for help. Mouse, who's big ears help her hear very well, heard Lion roar. She knew the King of the Jungle was in trouble and quickly ran to help! When she reached the spot, she looked up and saw Lion in the net. She wanted to help him and luckily, every mouse is equipped with very, very sharp teeth. So she quickly scurried up the tree, careful not to step into a trap, and climbed to where the rope was tied. She began to chew through it.

As she chewed, the rope began to snap and pop. Before she and Lion knew it, Lion went tumbling to the ground. Mouse squeaked with delight, "It worked!" she thought, and ran down to meet the giant. She scurried up to him but then remembered that Lion had wanted to eat her. She decided not to get too close. But Lion, though very big and very powerful, did have a heart. He crouched down to the ground, becoming as small as he could to be able to see Mouse better. Then in a gentle voice he said, "You are small, very, very small, but you helped me. I am large, very, very large, but I still need help sometimes. Maybe you and I can live together peacefully?" Mouse squealed happily, "Yes!" And from that day on, that is exactly what they did, always helping each other and living peacefully.

THE END.