The Lion and the Mouse

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **fable** is a short story, often with animals that talk and act like people. It ends with a **moral**, a lesson about how to live.

Find the moral: What mistake did a character make, or what wise thing did they do? What should we learn from it?

The Lion and the Mouse



A great lion lay sleeping in the shade of a tree. A little mouse, hurrying home, ran right across the lion's nose by mistake.

The lion woke with a roar and trapped the mouse under one enormous paw. "How dare you wake me!" he growled, opening his huge jaws.

"Please let me go," squeaked the mouse. "If you do, I promise I will help you one day." The lion laughed so hard that his mane shook. "How could a tiny mouse ever help a king like me?" But he was amused, so he lifted his paw and let the mouse go.

A few days later, the lion was hunting when he stepped into a hunter's net. Ropes wrapped around him. The more he twisted, the tighter they pulled. He roared with anger, and the sound echoed through the forest.

The little mouse heard the roar and ran toward it. When she saw the lion, she set to work. With her sharp teeth, she chewed through one rope, then another, until the lion was free.

"You laughed at me," said the mouse. "But now you see that even a little mouse can help a lion."

Moral: *No act of kindness is ever wasted, and even the smallest friend can be a big help.*

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. How did the mouse wake the lion?

(a) She squeaked loudly.
(b) She ran across his nose.
(c) She bit his tail.

2. Why did the lion let the mouse go?

(a) He was amused by her promise.
(b) He wasn't hungry.
(c) Another lion told him to.

3. How did the lion get trapped?

(a) He fell in a hole.
(b) He stepped into a hunter's net.
(c) He got stuck in a tree.

4. How did the mouse free the lion?

(a) She called for help.
(b) She chewed through the ropes.
(c) She untied the knots.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Why did the lion laugh at the mouse's promise?**

2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**

Answer Key

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2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Why did the lion laugh at the mouse's promise?**
   He thought a tiny mouse could never help someone as big and strong as him.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   No act of kindness is ever wasted, and even the smallest friend can be a big help.