

The lion and the mouse

On a bright, sunny day, in the middle of a forest filled with tall trees and green leaves, a majestic lion was taking a stroll after a hearty meal. He felt so content that he decided to take a nap in the shade of a large tree.

The lion stretched out, closed his eyes, and soon drifted off to sleep. He snored so loudly that it felt as if the ground were shaking! But suddenly, while he was sleeping, a little mouse scurrying through the forest accidentally bumped into him. Being curious and playful, the mouse didn’t even notice the lion until he was already climbing onto him, thinking he was a giant rock.

Annoyed, the lion woke up with a start! With a roar that silenced the entire forest, he caught the mouse in his large paw.
“Who are you to interrupt my rest?” the lion asked in a deep, gruff voice.

Trembling with fear, the mouse replied:
“Oh, great King of the Jungle, please forgive me! I didn’t mean to disturb you—it was an accident! If you let me go, I promise that one day I will return the favor.”

The lion, finding this hard to believe, began to laugh.
“You? A tiny mouse helping me—the King of the Beasts? That’s hilarious! But you know what? I’m in a good mood today. Go on, run along before I change my mind.”

The mouse darted away like a flash of lightning, but before leaving, he called out:
“Thank you, Your Majesty! I will never forget your kindness!” A few days later, the lion was walking through the forest when, suddenly, he was caught in some enormous nets. They were traps set by hunters! The lion tried to free himself, but the more he moved, the tighter the ropes pulled.

Desperate, he roared with all his might:
“Help! Someone, please, help me!”

The mouse, who happened to be passing by, heard the roar and recognized the voice. He ran as fast as his little legs could carry him until he reached the lion. Seeing him trapped, he said:
“Don’t worry, my friend. I will help you!”

“You?” the lion replied in a low, weary voice. “But how?”

Without another word, the mouse began to gnaw at the ropes with his tiny teeth. Bite after bite, the ropes snapped, until the lion was finally free.

Astonished and grateful, the lion looked at the mouse and said:
“I never imagined that someone as small as you could save me. Thank you, little friend.”

The mouse smiled and replied:
“Remember, great king, even the smallest among us can be of help.

Today, I was able to return the favor.”

From that day on, the lion and the mouse became great friends. Throughout the forest, everyone talked about how the king of the animals had learned a very important lesson: never underestimate anyone, because even the smallest can accomplish great things.

A lesson to reflect on with children

Being kind and good-hearted toward others is always a good idea.

It doesn’t matter if you are big or small; everyone can help.

Friendship and cooperation make the world a better place!

Now, young readers, what would you do if you were the lion? And what if you were the mouse?