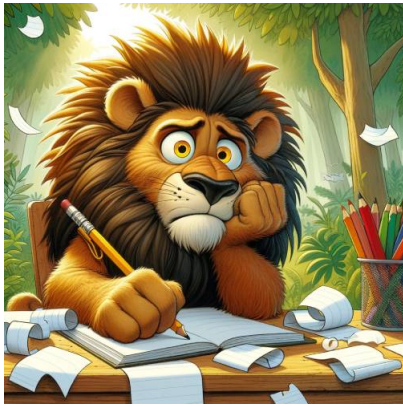




The lion who couldn't write

Once upon a time, on a wide African savannah, there lived a great, strong lion who ruled over the other animals. Yet despite his strength and power, there was one thing he had never learnt to do: he could not write.

The other animals respected him, but the lion felt sad whenever he thought about this missing skill. One day, as he walked beside the forest, he saw a lioness and fell in love. He wanted to write her a letter to explain his feelings, but he did not know how to begin.

After thinking for a while, he decided to ask for help. First he visited the monkey, who was famous for his clever ideas. The monkey wrote a letter full of jokes and funny stories. It made the lion smile, but it did not say what was in his heart.

Next he visited the giraffe, who had beautiful handwriting. She wrote a very formal letter, using long, complicated words. It looked impressive, but it did not express the lion's simple, honest feelings either.

Then he asked the crocodile, who liked to get straight to the point. His letter was so short and matter-of-fact that there was hardly any room



for affection. Once again, the lion felt that the words did not sound like him.

A letter from the heart

At last he went to the elephant, who was known for his wisdom. The elephant listened carefully and offered some advice.

“The important thing is not perfect handwriting or fancy words. The important thing is to say what you truly feel. Write from your heart.”

“But I still don’t know how to write,” said the lion.

“Then we shall learn, one step at a time,” his friend replied.

With patience and the elephant’s help, the lion began to form letters, then words and finally sentences. He made mistakes, rubbed some out and kept practising until he found his own way of expressing himself.

He wrote a simple letter full of affection and honesty. He told the lioness how much he enjoyed being with her and how he hoped to get to know her better.

When the lioness read it, she was deeply moved. Behind the slightly crooked letters, she could hear his own voice and recognise words that came straight from his heart.

From that day on, the lion and the lioness spent a great deal of time together. He carried on learning and discovered that nobody needs to get everything right on their first try. Asking for help and listening to others are valuable ways to grow.



This story reminds us that honesty matters more than perfection. Learning takes time, and every attempt counts when we bring kindness and a willingness to improve.