

The Lion and the Mouse

One day a mouse happened to run over the paws of a sleeping lion. Angrily the mighty beast woke. He was about to crush the little animal when the mouse cried out, "Please, mighty king of all the animals, spare me. I would be only a tiny mouthful, and I'm sure you would not like the taste. Besides, I might be able to help you some day. You never can tell."

The idea that this tiny creature could ever help him amused the lion so much that he let his little prisoner go.

Some time after this the lion, roaming in the forest for food, was caught in a hunter's net. The more he struggled the more he became stuck; his roar of rage echoed through the forest. Hearing the sound the mouse ran to the trap and began to gnaw the ropes that bound the lion. It was not long before he had bitten through the last cord with his little teeth and set the huge beast free.

Don't belittle little things.

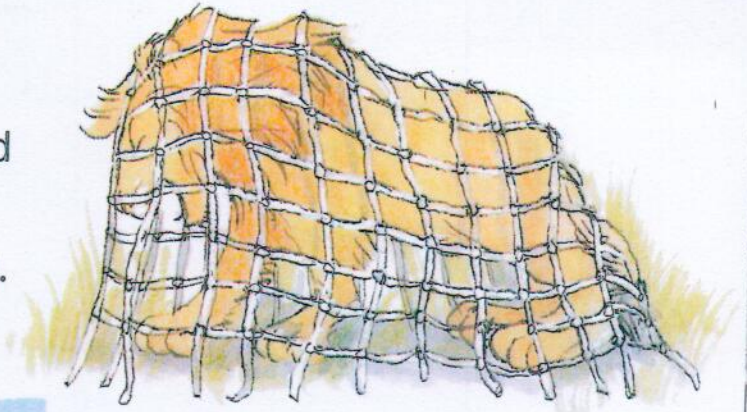
Aesop's Fables

Do you remember?

Write 'true', 'false' or 'can't tell' for each of these sentences.

1. The mouse pulled the lion's tail to wake him.
2. The lion was angry.

3. He ate the little mouse.
4. When the lion was trapped the mouse released him.
5. The animals lived in Africa.



More to think about

1. Write a sentence to answer each of these questions.
 - a) What was the lion going to do when the mouse woke him?
 - b) What made the lion change his mind?
 - c) Who was 'the little prisoner'?
 - d) How did the mouse know the lion was in trouble?
 - e) How did the mouse rescue the lion?
2. These sentences have been muddled up.
Write them in the correct order.
 - a) The mouse persuaded the lion to set him free.
 - b) The lion was trapped in the forest.
 - c) A little mouse woke a lion.
 - d) The lion grabbed the mouse.
 - e) The mouse helped the lion to escape.
 - f) The lion was going to eat the mouse.

Now try these

1. Have you ever been frightened by someone bigger than you? Write some sentences about what happened and how you felt.
2. Aesop's fables often have a moral. The moral of this story is:
Don't belittle little things.
Write what you think it means.