Storyland Classics

FREE STORY GUIDE

An Aesop fable, from The Æsop for Children (1919)



- ✦ Meet the Author
- ✦ The Big Idea & Try It
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Standards
- ✦ Story Map
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Who Did It? & Feelings
- ✦ Answer Key

Ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K to Grade 2 ✦ Aligned to Common Core

This cover is for your screen. Print from page 2 to save ink.

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to Use This Guide

This free guide goes with the Storyland Classics read-aloud of "The Lion and the Mouse." Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE STORY

A timid little Mouse runs across a sleeping Lion's nose. The Lion catches her under his paw, but she begs to be let go and promises to repay him some day. The Lion laughs at the idea, but he is generous and lets her go. Later the Lion is caught in a hunter's net. The Mouse hears him roaring, gnaws through the rope, and sets him free. Even a Mouse can help a Lion.

SKILL FOCUS

Character traits: describing the Lion and the Mouse, and finding clues in the story

WATCH AND READ ALONG

Scan the code to watch the read-aloud and read the full story, or visit storylandclassics.com/lion-mouse-guide. *The Æsop for Children* (1919), illustrated by Milo Winter. Public domain.

A simple routine

1. **Day 1.** Watch the read-aloud together, then fill in the Story Map.
2. **Day 2.** Meet the author, then use Let's Talk and The Big Idea.
3. **Day 3.** Learn the words with the word match, word sort and word search.
4. **Day 4.** Put the story in order, then perform it with voices.

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Standards

Every activity is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 2. Codes appear at the bottom of each page, and the full table is on the last page.

Younger children

Children who aren't writing yet can answer out loud or tell a grown-up what to write.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE AUTHOR

Aesop

Ancient Greece, about 2,500 years ago

Aesop is remembered as a storyteller in ancient Greece more than 2,500 years ago. Little is known for sure about his life, and some people think many storytellers' fables were gathered under his name. His fables are short stories, usually about animals that talk and act like people, and each one ends with a lesson called a moral. Our fables come from *The Æsop for Children* (1919), with pictures by Milo Winter.

Questions About the Author

1. Where did Aesop live?

2. What is a fable?

3. What is a moral? Can you think of one you already know?

Name _____ Date _____

STORY MAP

The Lion and the Mouse



Look at the picture from the read-aloud. Who do you see? Then fill in the story map.

Characters

Who is in the story?

Setting

Where and when does it happen?

Problem

What goes wrong?

Solution

How is it fixed? How does it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Lion and the Mouse

Young children can answer out loud. Older children can write their answers.

REMEMBER

1. How did the Mouse wake up the Lion?

2. What did the Mouse promise the Lion?

3. How did the Mouse set the Lion free?

THINK

4. Why did the Lion laugh at the Mouse's promise?

5. How did the Lion's kindness come back to him?

CONNECT

6. Tell about a time someone small (or younger) helped someone big.

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the fable back in your own words. How did the Mouse keep her promise?

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Name _____ Date _____

THE BIG IDEA

What Does the Story Teach?

THE MORAL

"A kindness is never wasted." The Lion was kind to the Mouse, and later the little Mouse saved the big Lion.

What does this mean to you? Tell or write about a time it was true in your life.

Try It

SKILL FOCUS

Character traits: describing the Lion and the Mouse, and finding clues in the story

Write two words that describe the Lion and two words that describe the Mouse. Then draw them as friends.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

lion	to pay back or help in return
timid	ropes tied together to catch things
spare	a big wild cat with a mane
repay	a person who catches animals
generous	to let go and not hurt
hunter	to chew and chew
net	shy and easily scared
gnaw	kind and giving

Word Sort: Big or Small?

Write each word in the right box.

lion · mouse · paw · rope · net · tooth · forest · whisker

Big	Small

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Lion and the Mouse

Find the words from the story. Words go across (left to right) and down (top to bottom). Circle each word, then check it off.

S	T	H	P	R	T	K	H	R	W
F	N	A	M	O	J	H	Y	O	O
R	S	W	P	A	J	L	B	P	V
E	R	B	G	R	B	J	F	E	J
E	A	R	E	Y	H	U	I	M	J
S	A	K	H	V	M	O	U	S	E
W	G	U	E	F	P	O	N	E	T
M	L	I	O	N	Y	I	P	A	W
N	S	R	U	C	V	A	W	D	S
F	W	N	N	O	S	E	W	G	W

WORD BANK

- ☐ LION
- ☐ MOUSE
- ☐ NET
- ☐ ROPE
- ☐ PAW
- ☐ NOSE
- ☐ ROAR
- ☐ FREE

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Name _____ Date _____

CHECK YOUR READING

Yes or No?

Read each sentence about the story. Circle **Yes** if it is true. Circle **No** if it is not.

1. The Lion was asleep in the forest. Yes No
2. The Mouse ran across the Lion's tail. Yes No
3. The Mouse promised to repay the Lion. Yes No
4. The Lion let the Mouse go. Yes No
5. A hunter caught the Mouse in a net. Yes No
6. The Mouse chewed through the rope. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the story in ABC order.

mouse · lion · net · rope · forest

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each sentence. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ The Mouse gnaws through the rope.
- ◯ The Mouse runs across the Lion's nose.
- ◯ The Lion is caught in a hunter's net.
- ◯ The Lion lets the Mouse go.
- ◯ The Mouse hears the Lion roaring.
- ◯ The Mouse begs, "Spare me!"

Retell the Story

Use the order words to tell the story in your own words. Say it out loud, or write it.

First, _____

Next, _____

Then, _____

Last, _____

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Name _____ Date _____

CHARACTERS

Who Did It?

Read each sentence. Write who did it. Use the name bank to help.

the Lion | the Mouse

ran across a sleeping nose _____

laid a huge paw on a tiny creature _____

begged, “Spare me!” _____

filled the forest with roaring _____

gnawed the rope until it parted _____

How Did the Mouse Feel?

Write a feeling word for each part of the story. Use the word bank, or choose your own.

scared | hopeful | thankful | worried | brave | proud | happy

When…	the Mouse felt…
she ran across the Lion’s nose	
the Lion caught her	
the Lion let her go	
she heard the Lion roaring	
she chewed the rope	
the Lion was free	

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Three readers take the parts. Give the Lion a big, deep voice and the Mouse a small, squeaky one!

NARRATOR	A timid little Mouse ran across the sleeping Lion's nose. The Lion laid his huge paw on her.
MOUSE	"Spare me! Please let me go and some day I will surely repay you."
NARRATOR	The Lion laughed, but he was generous and let the Mouse go.
NARRATOR	Some days later, the Lion was caught in a hunter's net.
LION	"ROAR!"
MOUSE	"You laughed when I said I would repay you. Now you see that even a Mouse can help a Lion."
EVERYONE	"A kindness is never wasted!"

My Favorite Part

My favorite part is _____

_____

because _____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Lion and the Mouse

Trace the gray words, then write them on your own on the empty lines. Tall letters touch the top line; small letters reach the dotted line.

A kindness is never wasted.

A kindness is never wasted.

A kindness is never wasted.

Even a Mouse can help a Lion.

Even a Mouse can help a Lion.

Even a Mouse can help a Lion.

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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CCSS L.K.1a · L.1.1a · L.K.2a

FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Story Map

Characters: the Lion, the Mouse, a hunter (only his net appears). Setting: a forest. Problem: first the Mouse is caught by the Lion, then the Lion is caught in a net. Solution: the Lion lets the Mouse go, and the Mouse gnaws the rope to set the Lion free.

Let's Talk

1. She ran across his nose. 2. That some day she would repay him. 3. She gnawed through a rope of the net. 4–6. Answers will vary (he didn't think a Mouse could help him).

Word Search

S	T	H	P	**R**	T	K	H	**R**	W
F	N	A	M	**O**	J	H	Y	**O**	O
R	S	W	P	**A**	J	L	B	**P**	V
E	R	B	G	**R**	B	J	F	**E**	J
E	A	R	E	Y	H	U	I	M	J
S	A	K	H	V	**M**	**O**	**U**	**S**	**E**
W	G	U	E	F	P	O	**N**	**E**	**T**
M	**L**	**I**	**O**	**N**	Y	I	**P**	**A**	**W**
N	S	R	U	C	V	A	W	D	S
F	W	N	**N**	**O**	**S**	**E**	W	G	W

Word Match & Sort

lion: a big wild cat with a mane · timid: shy and easily scared · spare: to let go and not hurt · repay: to pay back or help in return · generous: kind and giving · hunter: a person who catches animals · net: ropes tied together to catch things · gnaw: to chew and chew. Sort: Answers may vary. Big: lion, net, forest, paw (a lion's paw!). Small: mouse, rope, tooth, whisker.

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: forest, lion, mouse, net, rope.

Put It in Order

the Mouse runs across the Lion's nose → "Spare me!" → the Lion lets her go → the Lion is caught in a net → the Mouse hears him roaring → she gnaws through the rope.

Who Did It?

1. the Mouse · 2. the Lion · 3. the Mouse · 4. the Lion · 5. the Mouse

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Tie a loose knot with yarn and try to "gnaw" it free with your fingers.
- Make a list of ways kids can help grown-ups.
- Read it with The Dove and the Ant, which has the same moral.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Lion and the Mouse ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

STANDARDS	WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE	WHERE IN THIS GUIDE
RL.K.1 RL.1.1 RL.2.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Let's Talk and Yes or No?; Let's Talk
RL.K.2 RL.1.2 RL.2.2	Retell stories and poems, including key details, and show understanding of their message.	Put It in Order and Retell; Put It in Order and Retell; The Big Idea; The Big Idea
RL.K.3 RL.1.3 RL.2.3	Identify and describe characters, settings and major events.	Story Map and Character Feelings; Character Feelings
RL.K.4	Understand words and phrases, including rhyme, rhythm and words that appeal to the senses.	Word Match
RL.K.6 RL.1.6 RL.2.6	Identify who is speaking and use a different voice for each character when reading aloud.	Meet the Author; Who Said It?; Read It With Voices
RL.K.7 RL.1.7	Use illustrations and words together to describe characters, setting and events.	Story Map picture
RL.K.10 RL.1.10	Engage in group reading of poems and stories with purpose and understanding.	Reading the story together
RF.K.1b RF.K.1d	Understand the organization of print (left to right, top to bottom).	Word Search; ABC Order
RF.K.3c RF.1.3	Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Word Search
RF.1.4b RF.2.4b	Read aloud with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression.	Read It With Voices
SL.K.1 SL.1.1	Take part in conversations about the text with classmates and adults.	Let's Talk (discussion)
SL.K.2	Ask and answer questions about a text read aloud or presented through media.	Read-aloud video (QR code)
SL.K.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Try It (drawing to add detail)
SL.K.6	Speak audibly and express ideas clearly.	Read It With Voices
L.K.1a L.1.1 L.1.1a	Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words.	Handwriting Practice; ABC Order
L.K.2a	Use capital letters and end punctuation.	Handwriting checklist
L.K.4 L.1.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases.	Word Match
L.K.5a	Sort words into categories, connect words to real life and act out shades of meaning.	Word Sort
W.K.1 W.1.1	Use drawing and writing to share an opinion and give a reason.	My Favorite Part
W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.	Try It
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.

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