AESOP'S FABLES FOR KIDS

The Lion and the Mouse

A FREE FABLE TO READ ALOUD



RETOLD BY DAVID CRAIG MCDONALD, M.ED.

The Lion and the Mouse

✦ ✦ ✦

Lion was asleep in the shade when a little mouse, running home, scampered right across his nose.

SNAP! A huge paw came down and pinned the mouse by the tail. Lion opened one golden eye. "Breakfast," he rumbled.

"Please, Your Majesty!" squeaked the mouse. "Let me go, and one day I'll help you. I promise!"

Lion laughed so hard his whiskers shook. "You? Help *me*? The king of the beasts?" But the joke had put him in a good mood. He lifted his paw. "Go on, little one. Off with you."

The mouse ran.

A few weeks later, the forest shook with a terrible roar. Lion had walked into a hunter's trap, and now he was tangled in a net of thick ropes. The harder he pulled, the tighter it held. He roared and roared, but no one came. Every animal in the forest was afraid of him.

No one, that is, except the mouse.

She followed the sound, climbed up the net, and began to chew. Gnaw, gnaw, gnaw. One rope snapped. Then another, and another, until there was a hole big enough for a lion to crawl through.

Lion stood up, free, and looked down at her for a long time.

"You laughed at me," said the mouse. "But even a mouse can keep a promise."

From then on, the lion and the mouse were the best of friends.

Moral: No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted. And small friends can be great friends.

Think, Talk and Write

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Talk about it

1. Why did Lion laugh when the mouse promised to help him?
2. How did the mouse save Lion? Why couldn't the other animals help?
3. Have you ever helped someone bigger or older than you? What happened?

Put the story in order

Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the boxes.

- ☐ The mouse chews through the ropes of the net.
- ☐ The mouse runs across Lion's nose while he sleeps.
- ☐ Lion and the mouse become the best of friends.
- ☐ Lion lets the mouse go and laughs at her promise.

Copywork: trace the moral, then write it yourself

Small friends can be great friends.

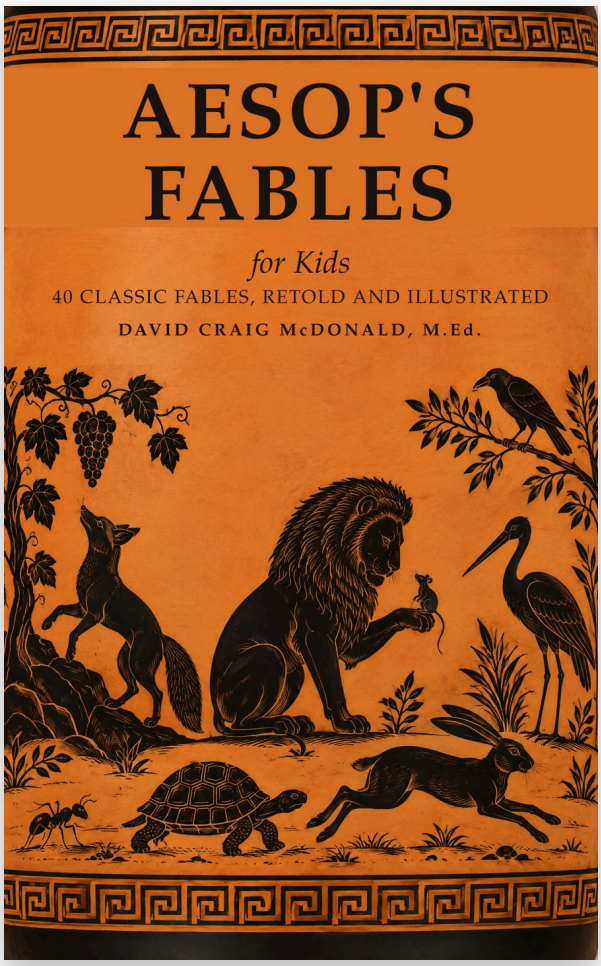
Draw it

Draw your favorite part of the story. Then tell someone what is happening.

For grown-ups · story order: 3, 1, 4, 2. Copywork builds handwriting and spelling by copying beautiful sentences; it's a classical habit worth a few minutes a day.

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