

Name: _____

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The Lion and the Mouse

Once upon a time, the lion was the King of the Jungle. All the other animals followed his orders, because they were scared that the mean King would eat them!

One night while the Lion was asleep, a little Mouse made the mistake of running up and down on top him, thinking that his body was a warm, soft place to play. This soon awakened the Lion, who placed his huge paw on the Mouse and opened his big jaws to swallow him.

"How dare you disturb my royal chamber! You tiny, insignificant animal – now you will be my royal dinner!" the Lion roared.

"Oh, King!" cried the little Mouse. "Forgive me this time, and I will never forget it. I know I am very small, but one day I could help you and save your life, too!"

"How could such a small animal help a mighty King?" the Lion asked. He laughed and laughed at the idea of the Mouse being able to help him, and found it so silly that he let the little Mouse go. "I am angry that you woke me up, but this is a funny joke, so I will let you go!" growled the Lion.