

The Lion and the Mouse



One day, a proud lion was asleep in the wood, his great head resting on his paws. A timid mouse came upon him unexpectedly, and in her fright and haste to get away, ran across the lion's nose.

Roused from his nap, the lion laid his huge paw angrily on the tiny creature, ready to gobble her up.

"Spare me!" begged the poor mouse. "Please let me go and someday I will surely repay you!" The lion was amused to think that a mouse could ever help. But he was generous and finally let the mouse go.

Some days later, whilst stalking his prey in the forest, the lion was caught in a hunter's net. Unable to free himself, he filled the forest with his angry roaring. The mouse knew the voice and quickly found the lion struggling in his net.



Running to one of the great ropes that bound him, she gnawed it until it parted and soon, the lion was free. "You laughed when I said I would repay you," said the mouse. "Now you see that even a mouse can help a lion."

A kindness is never wasted.

The Lion and the Mouse Questions

1. The first line of the story is:

'One day, a proud lion was asleep in the wood, his great head resting on his paws.'

Which words in this sentence are adjectives?

2. Why did the lion want to kill the mouse? Tick one.

- She had woken him from his nap.
- He didn't like mice.
- He wasn't a very nice lion.

3. Why did the mouse go to help the lion?

4. At the beginning of the story, the mouse is described as timid. In your opinion, is the mouse still timid at the end of the story? Why do you think this?

5. The moral of the story is 'A kindness is never wasted.'

What else can we learn from the story?

The Lion and the Mouse Answers

1. The first line of the story is:

'One day, a proud lion was asleep in the wood, his great head resting on his paws.'

Which words in this sentence are adjectives?

Proud and great are both adjectives in this sentence.

2. Why did the lion want to kill the mouse? Tick one.

She had woken him from his nap.

He didn't like mice.

He wasn't a very nice lion.

3. Why did the mouse go to help the lion?

Because she remembered his voice, and had promised to repay him.

4. At the beginning of the story, the mouse is described as timid.

In your opinion, is the mouse still timid at the end of the story?

Why do you think this?

Expect various answers, such as: the mouse is braver by the end of the story because she goes to help the lion; the mouse is more confident at the end of story.

5. The moral of the story is 'A kindness is never wasted.'

What else can we learn from the story?

Expect various answers, such as: don't judge people by their appearance; even if you are little you can do a lot; good things come in small packages; you can be friends with anyone even if they are different to you.
