

The Lion and the Mouse

by Aesop

From "Aesop's Fables"

A Lion lay asleep in the forest, his great head resting on his paws. A timid little 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 to kill her.

"Spare me!" begged the poor Mouse. "Please let me go and some day I will surely repay you."

The Lion was much amused to think that a Mouse could ever help him. But he was generous and finally let the Mouse go.

Some days later, while stalking his prey in the forest, the Lion was caught in the toils of 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 the 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.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What animal comes upon a Lion in the forest?

- A. a Cat
- B. a Mouse
- C. a Rat

2. What is the setting of this story?

- A. a forest
- B. a lake
- C. a field

3. Read these sentences from the text:

"A Lion lay asleep in the forest, his great head resting on his paws. A timid little 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 to kill her."

Based on this evidence, what probably woke the Lion up from his nap?

- A. the Mouse running across the Lion's nose
- B. the Mouse making a noise in her fright
- C. the noise made by the wind blowing through the trees

4. The Lion is generous. What evidence in the text supports this statement?

- A. The Lion lays his paw on the Mouse.
- B. The Lion lets the Mouse go.
- C. The Lion gets caught in a net.

5. What is the theme of this story?

- A. If you go walking in the forest, you should walk very quietly so that you do not wake up any lions.
- B. If you do something nice for someone or something, that person or thing will do something nice for you.
- C. If you do something mean to someone or something, that person or thing will do something mean to you.

6. Read these sentences from the text:

"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.'"

What does the word "repay" probably mean here?

- A. eat
- B. hurt
- C. reward

7. Read this sentence from the text:

"A timid little Mouse came upon him unexpectedly, and in her fright and haste to get away, ran across the Lion's nose."

What does the word "her" refer to in this sentence?

- A. the Mouse
- B. the Lion
- C. the Lion's nose

8. What does the Lion do with the Mouse after catching her?

9. What does the Mouse do for the Lion when he is caught in a net?

10. Explain how being generous helps the Lion.

Support your answer with evidence from the text and images.
