

The lion and the mouse - readers' theatre script by Nick Bilbrough

Narrator 1: Usually we become friends with people who are similar to us.

Narrator 2: But we can also be friends with people who are very different.

Narrator 1: In this story a lion and a mouse become friends. Can you believe it?

Lion: No! I can't be friends with a mouse!

Mouse: No! I can't be friends with a lion!

Narrator 2: Stop arguing and let us tell the story!

Narrator 1: Once upon a time there was a lion who lived in the middle of the jungle.

Narrator 2: Every day he ate lots and lots of meat.

Narrator 1: He needed to eat a lot because he was big, he was strong and he was brave.

Narrator 2: But today he was tired.

Narrator 1: Eating was very hard work!

Lion: I am so tired! I can't eat all my meat. I'll eat it later.

Narrator 1: He lay down on the floor of the jungle and went to sleep.

Narrator 2: A mouse was running around the jungle looking for food.

Narrator 1: The mouse was small and he wasn't very brave.

Narrator 2: But today he was hungry

Mouse: I'm so hungry!

Narrator 1: Suddenly he saw the meat on the floor in front of the lion.

Mouse: Wow! That meat looks so delicious.

Narrator 2: He climbed over the lion's back to get to the meat but....

Narrator 1: The lion suddenly woke up.

Lion: What are you doing? That's my meat! Are you stealing my meat?

Mouse: I'm sorry. I was so hungry. Please don't kill me. If you let me go I will help you one day.

Lion: You? Help me? How could you help me? You are so small. Not big and strong like me.

Narrator 2: And the lion started to laugh.

Lion: You've made me laugh and that's good. I won't kill you little mouse. You can go free – but don't come back.

Mouse: Thank you. Thank you so much.

Narrator 1: And the mouse ran back to his house.

Narrator 2: The next day the lion was walking in the jungle, looking for more food.

Narrator 1: Suddenly he felt a rope around his leg and he was hanging from a tree.

Lion: Oh no! I'm in a trap. Somebody help me please!

Narrator 2: The mouse heard the lion and ran to see what the problem was.

Mouse: Don't worry. I'll help you.

Narrator 1: The mouse ran to get all his friends.

Mouse: We're going to help a lion.

Mouse friend 1: We're going to help a lion????

Mouse: We're going to help a lion.

Mouse friend 2: We're going to help a lion????!!!!!!

Narrator 2: The mice bit through the rope in no time.

Narrator 1: And the lion was free!

Lion: Thank you so much. Now I am free again.

Narrator 2: The lion and the mice became good friends.

Mouse: I'm friends with a lion.

Lion: I'm friends with a mouse.

Mouse friend 1: I'm friends with a lion???

Mouse friend 2: I'm friends with a lion????!!!

Narrator 1: And they all lived happily ever after.

Notes on the story

This is one of Aesop's fables. It has been used for thousands of years to teach the moral of, 'One good turn deserves another' or that everybody, no matter how small or apparently insignificant, can do important things.