

The lion and the mouse

Aesop's Fable in Present tense

A lion sleeps in the forest. A tiny mouse comes that way. He runs across the lion's nose. The lion wakes up and puts his huge paw on the little mouse to kill him.

"Please, don't kill me!" cries the poor mouse. "Let me go, and one day I will pay you back for your kindness"

The lion laughs. "I am the king of all animals! I never need help from anyone! And how can a tiny mouse help a mighty lion? But you are a funny little thing, so I let you go. You are free."

A few weeks later hunters come to the forest. They want to catch a lion and take it to their king. They cover a net with leaves, and put a nice tasty piece of meat over it, and wait. The lion can smell the meat, and he walks into the trap. The king's hunters go to bring a cart. They leave the lion in the net.

The mouse hears the lion's roar from far away. He comes to the net and sees the lion trapped, sad and scared. With his sharp teeth, he starts to bite and chew and gnaw the ropes, the net opens, and the lion is free again.

The mouse says:

"You helped me before, and now I helped you in return. You can see, even a tiny mouse can help a mighty lion."

Now the lion and the mouse are the very best of friends.

Don't forget: even the smallest friend is very important!