Name _____ Date _____

The Lion and the Mouse

Aesop's fable · Kindergarten–2nd grade

A great lion was sleeping in the warm sun when a little mouse ran right across his nose. The lion woke with a roar and trapped the mouse under one huge paw.

"Please let me go!" squeaked the mouse. "If you do, maybe one day I can help you."

The lion laughed so hard his whiskers shook. "How could a tiny thing like you ever help a king like me?" But the mouse was so small and so brave that the lion lifted his paw and let her go.

A few days later, hunters set a trap in the forest. The lion stepped into it, and a strong rope net fell over him. He pulled and twisted and roared, but the ropes only grew tighter.

The little mouse heard the roar and came running. She found the net and began to chew. She chewed one rope, then another, then another, until there was a hole big enough for the lion to climb out.

"You laughed at me," said the mouse, "but now you see that even a mouse can help a lion."

From that day on, the lion and the mouse were the best of friends.

Questions

1. Who woke up the lion?

2. Why did the lion laugh?

3. What trapped the lion?

4. How did the mouse save the lion?

5. What is the moral of the story?

6. Why do you think the lion let the mouse go?

7. Has someone small or younger ever helped you?

The lesson in my own words

Answer Key

1. A mouse.
2. He didn't think *a* mouse could help him.
3. A rope net.
4. She chewed through the ropes.
5. Even small friends *c*an be *a* big help.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.

Lesson: No *a*ct of kindness is ever wasted, *a*nd even small friends *c*an be *a* big help.