



Part 2: Teacher's notes - The Lion and the Mouse worksheet

How to use the worksheets

You can use these worksheets as:

- a stand-alone lesson to practise reading skills, and extend vocabulary
- an extra story to go with *Crying Wolf and Other Tales* Oxford Dominoes graded reader (OUP) by Janet Hardy-Gould

Note the materials could be for a lesson, or series of lessons. To avoid photocopying, you could project the worksheet onto your whiteboard for students to read.

Background information

Level: elementary A1/A2

Age: children / early teens

Possible unknown vocabulary: (see also Glossary and Vocabulary)

appear (v), catch (v), fight (v), frighten (v), perhaps (adv), ready (adj), short story (n), storyteller (n)

Information about Aesop: Aesop was born in about 620 BCE, possibly in a town on the Black Sea coast, now part of the country of Bulgaria. He was a slave and a storyteller, and people say he became a free man because of his storytelling abilities. Over 600 fables have been attributed to Aesop, but we don't know for sure which ones originated from Aesop himself.

Lesson plan

1 Check the title of the story by getting the class to look at the pictures of the lion and the mouse. Students then in pairs discuss before-reading question, then share their answers with the class. Possible fables that students may have heard of are: *The Hare and the Tortoise*, *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse*, *The Goose that Laid Golden Eggs*, *The Boy who Cried Wolf*, *The Fox and the Grapes*.

2 Go through the answers to task 2. Prompt students by asking: *What type of things do fables teach people?* Important lessons about life / morals. Tell students a little more about Aesop's life (see **Background information** above) and establish what types of stories he told.

3 Check the answers to the vocabulary exercise.

4 Go through the first reading question, 'What happens to the lion?' Ask students to read and find the answer.

5 Then ask them to do the ordering activity in exercise 2.

Optional activity: Ask students to find words that help to order and sequence the main story: *one day, suddenly, the next morning, when, soon, then, in the end*.

6 Students then move on to choose the adjectives to describe the mouse. Ask them to explain their answers. Can they think of any other adjectives to describe the mouse?

7 Ask students to choose the correct moral of the story in **After you read** exercise 1. Do they think this moral is true in real life?

8 In pairs, ask students to think of a different ending to the story, and tell the class.

Answers

Before you read

1 Students' own answers.

2 1 b 2 a 3 a

3 chew – use your teeth to break something; grass – a plant with thin green leaves; poacher – a person who illegally kills animals; rope – a strong, thick line or cord; whisper – talk very quietly.

Read the story

1 The lion escapes from the poachers and runs away.

2 a 2 b 5 c 1 d 4 e 3

3 clever, honest, helpful

After you read

1 The moral of the story is 2.

2 Students' own answers.

Useful websites

- BBC: Adaptations and recordings of Aesop's Fables for 5 to 9 year-olds bbc.co.uk/teach
- The Library of Congress: A Collection of Aesop's Fables read.gov/aesop