



The Lion and the Mouse



Before you read

1 Discuss the question with a partner.

1 Do you know any Aesop's Fables? Which ones?

2 Choose the correct answers below.

- 1 A fable is a short story that ...
 a) frightens people. b) teaches people something.
- 2 Aesop was a storyteller who lived around ...
 a) 2,500 years ago. b) 1,000 years ago.
- 3 Aesop's fables often have animals that can ...
 a) think and speak. b) run and fight.

3 Match the words and the definitions.

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

Read the story

1 Read the story. What happens to the lion in the end?

One day, a lion is asleep in the sun. Suddenly, he feels something on his body, and he opens his eyes. A small mouse is running up his leg.

The lion opens his mouth ready to eat the mouse. But the mouse cries, 'Don't eat me! Perhaps I can be ¹helpful to you in the future.' 'YOU, helpful to ME?' laughs the lion. But he ²lets the mouse go.

The next morning, the lion is in some long grass when he hears a noise. He sees two poachers with a big rope. They throw the rope around him and quickly pull him to the ground.

'Help!' cries the lion, and soon the mouse appears.

'What can I do?' thinks the mouse, then it begins to chew the rope.

In the end, the rope breaks and the lion jumps up. But before he runs away, the mouse whispers in the lion's ear, 'I was right, wasn't I?'

2 Read the story again and put these sentences in the correct order, 1-5.

- The mouse says it can be helpful, but the lion laughs.
- The lion escapes with the help of the mouse.
- A lion sees a mouse and he wants to eat it.
- Poachers catch the lion. The mouse comes back.
- The lion lets the mouse go free.

3 What is the mouse's character? Explain why.

- clever / stupid
 honest / dishonest
 cruel / helpful



After you read

1 What is the moral of the story?

- 1 If you are ³greedy, you can lose everything.
- 2 If you do something kind to others, it can bring a ⁴reward in the future.
- 3 If you tell ⁵lies, nobody listens to you.

2 Work with a partner. Think of a different ending to the story. Tell the class.

Glossary

1 helpful ready to give help **2 let something go** allow something to be free **3 greedy** when you want more of something than you need **4 reward** something good that you receive because you have done something **5 lies** things that are not true