

The Lion and the Mouse Study Guide

Ages: 5 to 12

Running time: 4:06

This animated film without words is based on one of Aesop's fables. A curious little mouse burrows into a lion's paws. The angry lion grabs the mouse, but decides to spare its life. One day the mouse will return the favour, by saving the lion.

Pre-Viewing

No pre-viewing exercises are necessary.

Post-Viewing

Guidance: Interpersonal Relationships

Understanding that all healthy relationships require exchanges and mutual concessions.

- What is the moral of the story?
- Debate the following statement: "We often need the help of someone smaller than us."
- Describe a situation in which you helped someone smaller or larger than you. How did you do it?
- Write a letter thanking someone who helped you out in a way that you really appreciated.

Guidance: The Individual in Society

Recognizing that we have rights and responsibilities both as individuals and as members of a group.

- Describe a situation in which you hesitated or refused to help someone who was in need. Why did you act the way you did? If the same situation came up again, would you act differently?

Language Arts

Developing oral and written communication.

- List the events that take place in this fable in chronological order, and decide which are the most important points.
- Imagine and perform (or write out) a dialogue between the mouse and the lion, at the moment the mouse is captured.

- Write what would have happened to the lion if the mouse did not happen to come by when it did.
- What are some of the different ways in which the lion could have expressed its rage?
- Write a thank you letter from the lion to the mouse, or from the mouse to the lion.

Science

Recognizing animal characteristics.

- Name other creatures, both large and small, who help each other out. What do they do?

Drama

Improvising a dialogue or a story.

- Retell the story in the form of a play acted out using puppets.

Improvising gestures, attitudes and movements inspired by a theme.

- Huddle in the corner and imagine that you are the trapped lion. Now act out these gestures:
 - Use your hands to feel the outlines of the cage in which you are trapped.
 - Use whatever methods you like to try and break the cage's walls.
 - Use sounds to show your rage.
 - Furiously struggle to get out.
 - Rest while you wait for help.

Visual Arts

Depicting people and animals.

- Draw the imprisoned lion, with several mice gnawing on its net.
- Draw yourself in the process of helping out somebody else.