

The Lion and the Mouse

1st–2nd Grade

Objectives

CCSS Reading: Literature

- RL.2.1: Ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why* and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- RL.2.2: Recount stories, including fables and folk tales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson or moral.

Materials Needed

- “The Lion and the Mouse” fable
- Highlighters
- Construction Paper - 9" x 12" [TA50]
- Safety Scissors [GS454]
- Best-Buy Crayons [VX818]
- Lakeshore Glue Sticks [TT505] or Best-Buy School Glue [RS264]
- Lion and mouse cutouts

Products with item numbers are available at LakeshoreLearning.com.



Introduction

Read aloud “The Lion and the Mouse” fable.

Procedure

1. Give each student a copy of the fable. Ask them to follow along as you read the story again. Or invite students to join you in a choral reading.
2. Next, tell students that you are going to ask them questions about the story. Challenge them to be “story detectives” and look for evidence in the story that answers your questions.
3. Give each student a highlighter and have them highlight evidence in the text to answer your questions.
4. Ask, “Why is the lion angry at the beginning of the story?” Invite students to share their responses and find evidence in the story to support their answers.
5. Continue to ask questions, and have students highlight the evidence in the text to support their answers. You can ask questions such as:
 - What does the lion think of the mouse’s promise to help him if he lets the mouse go?
 - How did the mouse eventually help the lion?
 - How do you think the lion felt when the mouse rescued him?
 - What do you think the story is trying to tell us about being helpful?

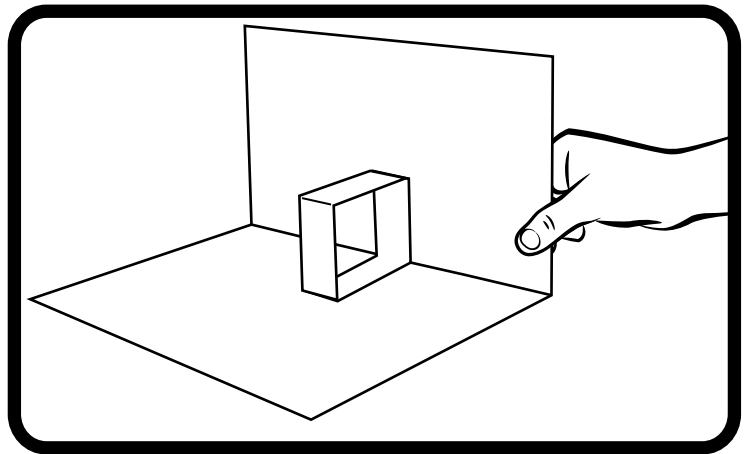
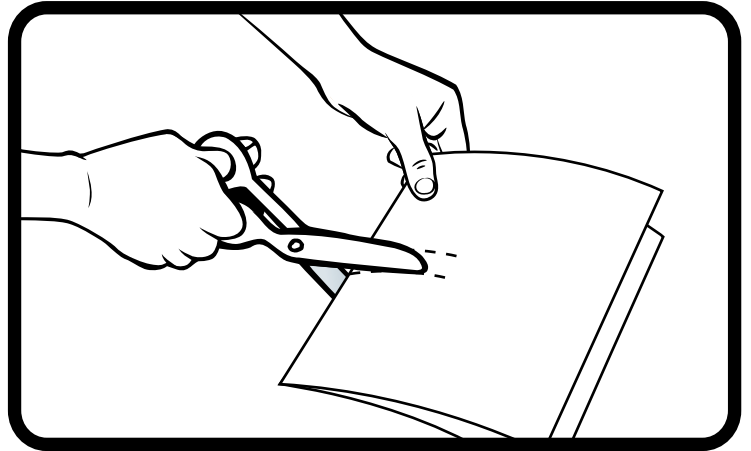
Independent Practice

1. Tell students that they are going to create a pop-up book to retell the story of the lion and the mouse.
2. Provide each student with a copy of the lion and mouse cutouts, a blank pop-up book*, scissors, crayons and glue.

3. Have students color and cut out the pictures of the lion and mouse.
4. Then encourage students to put the pictures in the correct sequence, and have them glue the pictures to the pop-up piece on each page of their book.
5. On the last page, have students write the lesson or moral of the story.

***Pop-Up Book Instructions**

1. Take a sheet of construction paper and fold it in half horizontally.
2. In the center of the folded edge, make two parallel slits about 1½" long to make the pop-up piece.
3. Open the sheet of paper and gently pull up the pop-up piece.
4. Repeat this process five times for each book so that each student will have five pop-up pages.
5. Attach the five pages together by gluing the back of the bottom of one page to the back of the top of another page. Avoid putting glue on the pop-up pieces.
6. To make the cover of the book, fold a sheet of construction paper in half. Place the pop-up pages inside the folded sheet and glue the backs of the first and last pages to the cover.





THE LION AND THE MOUSE

Read the story. Then answer the questions on your own paper.

A lion was sleeping when a mouse ran across his face and woke him up. The angry lion caught the mouse with his large paw. The mouse begged in a tiny voice, "If you let me go, I will repay your kind act by helping *you* someday." The lion laughed. How could a mouse help a lion? Still laughing, he set the mouse free.

Soon after, hunters captured the lion. They tied him with strong ropes. The mouse heard the lion roar and came running. He gnawed through the ropes with his teeth and set the lion free. Then the mouse said, "You laughed at the idea that I could ever help you. Now you know that even a little mouse can help a big lion."

Moral: No act of kindness—big or small—is ever wasted.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) Why is the lion angry at the beginning of the story?
- 2) How do you think the lion feels when the mouse rescues him?
- 3) A fable is a story that has a moral, or lesson. Do you think the moral of this fable is true? Explain your answer.

TRY THIS!

Think of two other animals that would not usually help each other, such as a spider and a fly. Write a fable using these animals as characters.



