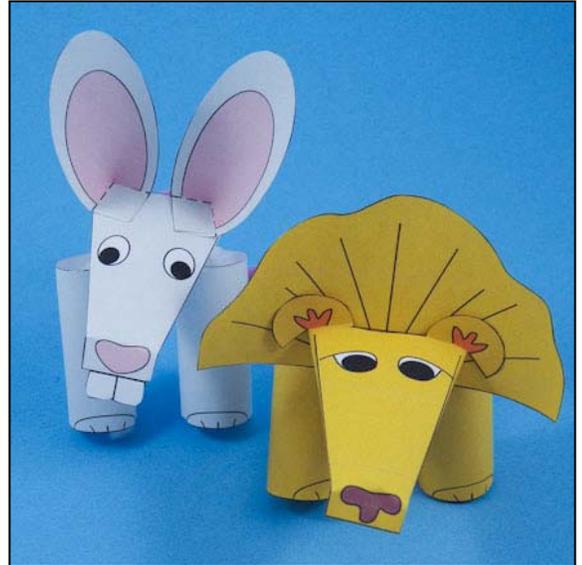


The Lion and the Rabbit

An Aesop fable from ancient Greece

<http://www.AuntAnnie.com/Puppets/ThreeFinger>



Characters

Lion - King of All Animals

Rabbit - a small quiet animal

Scene 1—The Nap

It is a very warm day in the jungle. The scene opens with Lion asleep next to the rock.

Rabbit: *(Enters the stage running very fast. Rabbit accidentally bumps into Lion and wakes him.)*

Lion: *(Roars and catches Rabbit.)* How dare you wake me from my nap?

Rabbit: Oh, I am very sorry, Great King! I didn't mean to wake you. Please don't hurt me.

Lion: Why should I, the King of All Animals, free you?

Rabbit: If you let me go, I will be sure to repay your kindness someday.

Lion: *(Laughs.)* Ho, ho! Ha, ha! That is funny. How could a rabbit help a lion? *(Lion lets Rabbit go.)* Go! Leave me to my nap.

Rabbit: Oh, thank you, Great King. I will always remember this.

Lion: *(Snores and falls asleep again.)*

(Scene 1 ends as Rabbit leaves.)

Scene 2—The Net

It is many days later. Lion has been caught in a hunter's net.

Lion: *(Struggles to get free from the net.)* Roar! Roar!

Rabbit: *(Enters stage listening.)* Where have I heard that sound before?

Lion: *(Tries to get out of the net.)* Roar! Roar! Roar!

Rabbit: Oh, that is Lion. It sounds like he is in trouble.
(Runs over to Lion and starts chewing a hole in the net.)

Lion: *(Escapes from the net.)* Thank you, Rabbit. *(Lion trots away.)*

Rabbit: *(Speaks to audience)* Even a great king can be helped by a small rabbit. We are all equal in our ability to be kind.

(The End.)

About the Play - The Lion and the Rabbit <http://www.AuntAnnie.com/Puppets/ThreeFinger>

This play is based on an Aesop fable from ancient Greece. It is thought that the many Aesop fables were first told in the 5th century BC by a slave and storyteller in Greece named Aesop.

Puppets

Make the lion and rabbit puppets from the Three-Finger Puppets project at AuntAnnie.com.

Sets

Both scenes take place in the jungle. Create a backdrop with vines, trees and lush green vegetation.

Props

Rock - A rock for Lion to sleep next to.

Net - Lion gets caught in the net. (use some string or a small piece of cloth)

Staging Tips

- This play can be performed by one puppeteer, but is easier with two puppeteers.
- If you have trouble with the puppet parts staying on your fingers, tape them in place.

The Story

This story is also told with a mouse instead of a rabbit. Most Aesop fables illustrate a moral principle. What is the moral of this story?