

THE LION AND THE MOUSE

Retold by Ardith Davis Cole

There was once a fierce and mighty lion who enjoyed catching and tormenting little mice before he ate them. It so happened that as he was walking through the grasslands one day, a little brown mouse scurried by. "BAM!" went the lion's paw, down on the tail of that small, furry creature.

Shaking with fear, the helpless victim squeaked, "Oh, please, kind sir, release me and I will someday return the favor."

"HA!" scoffed the lion. "A wee creature like you help the king of the jungle?" Yet, as the lion sat there listening to his helpless prey beg for his life to be spared, the fierce feline's mood mellowed. He began to consider giving this one mouse his freedom. And so he did.

The sun would set many times before the two of them would meet again. It happened one day as the lion was stalking a small animal on the edge of the great forest. Alas, the fierce beast did not notice the snare that had been set by some hunters, and so he walked directly into it. "SNAP!" went the prison of ropes, capturing the large creature in its grip.

"Help! Help! Help!" roared the mighty beast, caught in the net. Not far away the little mouse heard the lion's call for help, so the tiny creature ran as fast as he could, found the trapped lion, gnawed on the ropes, and freed his friend. As they were about to go their own ways, the mouse turned back and said, "You see, my friend, even those who seem small and insignificant can sometimes help the great and mighty."

PROMPTS:

- The lion was not nice to the mouse, yet the mouse helped the lion. Explain what the mouse did for the lion, and then tell why you think the mouse helped the lion.
- Why did the lion think the mouse would never be able to help him? Use details from the story to support your answer.

The Better Answer Organizer

INTRODUCTION	
<p>Restatement of the question and/or petition</p> <p>Gist/general answer -no details, just main idea or issue - Make reader ask: "Where's your evidence?" "What do you mean?" "Explain yourself."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">➤</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➤</p>
DETAILS	
<p>Cite evidence from the text if text-based</p> <p>Give examples, ideas, thoughts if self-based</p> <p>Use transition words</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">➤</p>
CONCLUSION	
<p>Restate the restatement</p> <p>-Explain why the details support your response</p> <p>-Make a personal, world, text, or craft connection (voice)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">➤</p>