

## **The Lion and the Mouse**

A lion lay asleep in a cave, his great head resting on his paws. A shy, quiet little mouse came into the cave and ran across the floor. Because the cave was dark, the mouse did not see the lion. Frightened, the mouse ran. But in his haste to get away, he ran across the lion's nose. The lion woke up. The lion laid his huge paw angrily on the tiny creature. "You will make a good meal," roared the lion.

"Are you going to hurt me?" asked the poor mouse. "Please let me go and some day I will repay you."

The lion was so amused at the idea of the little mouse being able to help the King of Beasts that he lifted up his paw and let her go. The mouse ran away to safety and the lion went back to sleep.

Some weeks later the lion was roaming the forest. Suddenly, the lion found himself caught in a net. He struggled to get free. But the more he wriggled around, the tighter the net twisted around him.

Just then the little mouse happened to pass by, and seeing the lion's sad plight, he knew he could help him. The mouse went up to him and soon gnawed away the ropes of the net, freeing the lion.

"I have helped you like you have helped me and now I have returned the favor," said the little mouse. "Wasn't I right—even a mouse can help a lion!"