

## Aesop's Fables – The Lion and the Mouse



A Lion asleep in his lair was waked up by a Mouse running over his face. Losing his temper, he seized it with his paw and was about to kill it. The Mouse, terrified, piteously entreated him to spare its life. "Please let me go," it cried, "and one day I will repay you for your kindness." The idea of so insignificant a creature ever being able to do anything for him amused the Lion so much that he laughed aloud, and good-humouredly let it go.

But the Mouse's chance came, after all. One day the Lion got entangled in a net which had been spread for game by some hunters, and the Mouse heard and recognized his roars of anger and ran to the spot. Without more ado it set to work to gnaw the ropes with its teeth, and succeeded before long in setting the Lion free. "There!" said the Mouse, "you laughed at me when I promised I would repay you: but now you see, even a Mouse can help a Lion."

### Reading Comprehension Questions

1. The first sentence says that the Lion was, "asleep in his lair." What is a lair?
2. The Mouse "entreated" the Lion to spare his life. What does entreated mean?
3. We are told that "the Lion got entangled in a net which had been spread for game by some hunters." What does the phrase "spread for game" mean?
4. How was the little Mouse able to help the powerful Lion?
5. What is the message of this fable?

**Aesop's Fables – The Lion and the Mouse****Answer Key**

The first sentence says that the Lion was, "asleep in his lair." What is a lair?

- **A home or den**

The Mouse "entreated" the Lion to spare his life. What does entreated mean?

- **To plead, beg or request**

We are told that "the Lion got entangled in a net which had been spread for game by some hunters." What does the phrase "spread for game" mean?

- **The hunters were hoping to catch some game in the net. Game is another word for animals that are hunted for sport.**

How was the tiny Mouse able to help the powerful Lion?

- **The Mouse chewed a large enough opening in the net to allow the Lion to escape.**

What is the message of this fable?

- **Answers may vary: Everyone has skill and talents, so it is important to value everyone.**