



# The Lion and the Mouse

## Discuss the title.

Display slide 1 from the Google Slides. Then transition to slide 2: allow some discussion for the question: Can someone small help someone big?

## Introduction to the story.

- Explain that today you are going to read a fable from the *Pañcatantra*, a very old collection of animal stories from India. These stories were first told thousands of years ago to teach lessons about friendship, wisdom, and kindness. (See slide 3.)

## Meet the Characters

Using slide 4, discuss the main characters. Allow students to discuss the question with a partner: What do you think happens when they meet?

## Key Vocabulary

See Slides 5-10

Spend a few minutes discussing each of the words on slides 5-10. Allow students to share examples relating to each of the words.

## Pre-Reading

See Slides 11-12

Discuss the following question: What makes someone a true friend? Have you ever made a promise that seemed hard to keep? Allow students to freely walk around the room discussing this with classmates for two minutes.

## During Reading

See Slides 13-15

Allow students to discuss each of the questions shown on slides 13, 14, and 15 as you read. Pause at appropriate times to allow for clarification and reflection.

# The Lion and the Mouse

## Post Reading

See Slides 16, 17, & 18.

Allow students to discuss each of the questions shown on slides 16-17. Consider discussing each question using a whole group approach or a Think-Pair-Share strategy.

## Connect to Your Life.

See Slides 19 & 20.

Using the provided worksheet, have students draft a response to the Connect to Your Life questions.

## Extension Activities

1. **Friendship Poster Project** - Create a poster showing “What Makes a Good Friend,” using ideas from the story (kindness, loyalty, helping others).
2. **Animal Research Connection** - Write a short paragraph or make a mini-poster comparing the real animals to the story characters.
3. **Random Acts of Kindness Journal** - Over a week, students track small acts of kindness they do or see.
4. **Drama Circle Performance** - Students form a circle and act out the story scene by scene, switching actors for each new part.
5. **Build a “Kindness Tree”**. On a class bulletin board, create a tree trunk and add paper leaves. Each leaf shows a way to help a friend, inspired by the mouse’s actions.
6. **Letter Writing Activity**. Write a “thank you” letter from the lion to the mouse after being freed. Write a reply letter from the mouse.

# The Lion and the Mouse



## Connect to Your Life – *The Lion and the Mouse*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Think About It:** In the story, a powerful lion and a tiny mouse become unexpected friends. The mouse shows kindness and loyalty, even though he is small. The lion learns that everyone can make a difference, no matter their size.

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### ✨ Reflection Questions

**1. Has someone ever helped you in a small way that turned out to be very important? Write about what happened and how you felt:**

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**2. Have you ever helped someone bigger, older, or stronger than you? What did you do, and what difference did it make?**

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## The Lion and the Mouse

**3. What do you think makes someone a true friend? Write your thoughts below:**

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**Optional Challenge:**

**Draw a picture of you and a friend helping each other.**

# The Lion and the Mouse

## **The Lion and the Mouse (*Condensed Version*)**

Once in the forest, a lion ate a big meal and then fell asleep. While he was sleeping, a tiny mouse accidentally ran over his paw and woke him up. With lightning-quick reflexes, the lion's paw flashed forward and caught the mouse, pinning it in place. The mouse pleaded: "Please let me go! Someday I will help you in return."

The lion laughed, but he had just eaten a big meal and he still felt full, so he decided to let the mouse go. He released his paw and the mouse streaked off into the forest. Later, the lion was caught in a hunter's net trap. He roared loudly for help, struggling but unable to free himself from the entangling net. Hearing the cry, the mouse came running. Using his sharp teeth, the mouse gnawed through the ropes and freed the lion before the hunter arrived.

Moral: No matter how small or weak, a true friend can be a great help.  
True friendship is about kindness and loyalty, not size or strength.

## The Lion and the Mouse

### The Lion and the Mouse (*from the original, Pañcatantra, Book I*)

In the heart of a dense forest, where the trees whispered with the wind and birds sang high in the canopy, lived a powerful lion. He was the king of the jungle, feared and respected by all animals. One sunny afternoon, after a large meal, the lion stretched, yawned, and dozed off under the shade of a great banyan tree.

Not far away, a tiny mouse was scurrying about in search of seeds. Chasing a fluttering leaf, the mouse accidentally darted across the lion's paw. With a thunderous growl, the lion awoke, furious to be disturbed from his nap. In one swift move, he pinned the tiny creature under his enormous paw.

The mouse trembled in fear. "Please, mighty lion, forgive me! I didn't mean to wake you," he squeaked. "If you let me go, I promise I will help you one day!"

The lion burst into laughter. "You? Help me?" he roared, amused. "How could a tiny thing like you help someone like me?"

But the lion was full and in a generous mood. With a final chuckle, he lifted his paw and let the mouse go. The mouse scampered away, grateful and relieved.

Days passed, and one morning the lion was wandering through the forest when he stepped into a trap set by hunters. Ropes snapped up around him, tightening and tangling his legs. No matter how hard he roared and thrashed, he could not break free. Birds scattered. Monkeys fled. But no one dared come near.

Hearing the lion's deep, helpless roar echo through the trees, the mouse paused. Recognizing the voice, he rushed toward it. There, he saw the lion caught in ropes and struggling fiercely.

"Don't worry, friend," the mouse called out. "I haven't forgotten my promise."

Without hesitation, he began to gnaw at the ropes. His sharp teeth worked quickly and carefully, and before long, one by one, the ropes began to snap. At last, the lion was free.

The lion looked at the mouse with awe and gratitude. "Today, you have taught me something I never understood before," he said. "Even the smallest friend can make a big difference."

## The Lion and the Mouse

From that day forward, the lion and the mouse became true companions, their friendship a quiet but powerful reminder in the jungle that kindness and loyalty are what make a friend—not size or strength.