

# The Lion and the Mouse

Retold by Jerry Pinkney



## Before Reading: Get Ready

**Review the first paragraph of the Artist's Note (inside back cover) with the student to confirm interest in reading the book.** Share the title, and note that the author is also the illustrator. Talk about the cover.

**Activate comprehension and set a purpose for reading.** In *The Lion and the Mouse*, the mouse accidentally wakes a lion, but he sets her free. Later, the lion steps into a trap and the mouse sets him free. This kind of story is a fable, which are very old stories that have been passed down by people for many years. Each fable has a lesson, or a moral in the story. Let's read to see what the moral of this fable will be.

This is a semi-wordless book, so we have to look at the pictures and use what we know about stories. Remember that stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. There are characters who have a problem that needs to be solved. When the problem is solved, the story ends. Let's look at the pictures to see what happens to the lion and the mouse. Let's also talk about what we see and tell the story out loud. In wordless picture books we get to tell the story according to what we see in the pictures.

**Introduce important vocabulary and ask your student to listen for these words during reading.**

- **moral:** The moral of a story is the lesson you learn from the story. The author shares a moral with us at the end of the book!

## During Reading: Read Together

**Sit side-by-side to share the book.** Follow the conversation prompts and invite your student to ask questions or comments connected to the text to ensure their comprehension. Encourage your student to talk about the illustrations and tell you the story in their own words!

- **After reading p. 6:** Have your student predict what the mouse is standing on after escaping the other threats.

- **After reading p. 8:** Have your student confirm or change their prediction based on the information in the picture. Ask your student to predict what will happen next.
- **After reading p. 14:** Have your student confirm or change their prediction based on the information in the picture. Were they expecting the lion to let the mouse go free?
- **After reading p. 16:** Have your student say what they think the men are doing, and explain their thinking.
- **After reading p. 22:** Have your student describe what the mouse is doing, and if she will be successful.
- **After finishing the book:** Let's talk about what the moral of the story could be!
  - Answers could include to always try to help others, it's ok to take risks, and the strong ones sometimes need help.

**NOTE:** This book does not have page numbers. These conversation prompts will be marked in the book for your use.

## After Reading: Discuss and Extend

**After reading, briefly discuss the story and revisit vocabulary words to ensure your student understands the book.** Extend the conversation with drawing and writing to give your student multiple opportunities to show understanding.

- **I hope you enjoyed our book today and will read other fables!**
- **Let's talk, draw, and write to respond to this story.** Let's talk and draw to respond to this story. You can write too if you like! (Choose a prompt for student response and copy the selected frame into your student's notebook.)
  - I am more like the \_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_.
  - Even though the lion stepped in the trap, he \_\_\_\_.
  - I think the fable teaches us that \_\_\_\_.