

# THE LION AND THE MOUSE

Aesop fable

Adapted by Carole L. Cooney

**Setting:** A grassy meadow

**Characters:**

**Narrator**

**Leo, the lion**

**Minnie, the mouse**

**Narrator:** The sun was shining brightly as Leo, the lion, lay in the grassy meadow. Without opening his eyes, he began to swat at something that was itching his face.

**Leo:** (growl) Aw! What is making my face itch? Go away! (growl)

**Narrator:** No matter how much Leo moved his paws over his face, the itching would not stop. Suddenly, Leo's eyes opened wide as he clapped his huge paw over the itch.

**Minnie:** (squeak, squeak) Ouch! Help me! YOUR PAW IS TOO HEAVY! I'M SMOTHERING! Get me out of here! (squeak, squeak)

**Leo:** What have we here? Ahh... a little mouse. What a nice way to start the morning with a delicious snack.

**Minnie:** Please, Sir Leo, I didn't mean to annoy you. I was just out looking for some seeds for my little children. I didn't realize that some seeds were *on your face*. Please let me go!

**Leo:** (growl!) I'm hungry! And I'm going to EAT... (growl!!)

**Minnie:** Pleeeeeze, have mercy, Sir Leo. (squeak, squeak) If you let me go, I'll do a kind deed for you someday.

**Leo:** Are you crazy? How can a little creature like you help me, the King of the Jungle? (laughing) Maybe the sun has made me silly, but I haven't laughed in a long while. All right, I guess I'll let you go *this time*. (GROWL)

**Narrator:** Leo lifted his paw and Minnie ran away. Many days passed. Then one day, as Minnie was gathering seeds for her children, she heard a loud roar in the distance.

**Minnie:** That's Sir Leo! It sounds like he must be in some kind of trouble.

**Narrator:** Quickly Minny scampered toward the sound and found Leo trapped under a huge net set by hunters.

**Leo:** (roar!!) Help me! How can I get out of here before the hunters come back to kill me? (growl!) Help!

**Minnie:** Oh, Sir Leo! I can help you. I will set you free!

**Narrator:** Minny set to work gnawing the net ropes with her sharp teeth. Very quickly she made a hole large enough for Leo to climb through.

**Leo:** (purr) Who will ever believe that I, Leo the mighty lion, was saved by a little mouse? (patting Minny's head with his huge paw) I thank you, little mouse. (purr)

**Minnie:** You are most welcome, Sir Leo. You see, I told you I would do a kind deed for you some day and that day has come. Small as I am, I have repaid your kindness by my setting you free.

**Narrator:** And so, Leo gently lifted Minny onto his back and together they walked in the sunshine toward the grassy meadow.

**Moral:** Little friends may prove to be great friends.