

The lion and the mouse

One day a mouse happened to run over the paws of a sleeping lion. Angrily, the mighty beast woke. He was about to crush the little animal when the mouse cried out, "Please, mighty king of all animals, spare me. I would be only a tiny mouthful, and I'm sure you would not like the taste. Besides, I might be able to help you some day. You never can tell."

The idea that the tiny creature could ever help him amused the lion so much that he let his little prisoner go.

Some time after this the lion, roaming in the forest for food, was caught in a hunter's net. The more he struggled the more he became stuck; his roar of rage echoed through the forest. Hearing the sound the mouse ran to the trap and began to gnaw the ropes that bound the lion. It was not long before he had bitten through the last cord with his little teeth and set the huge beast free.

Don't belittle little things.

Aesop's Fables



Answer each of the questions with a sentence.

1 How did the mouse wake the lion?

2 Why did the lion let the mouse go?

3 How do you think the lion felt when he got caught in the net?

4 How did the lion escape?

5 Find a word in the extract that means the same as these words.

small l _____

nibble g _____

flatten c _____

large h _____

wandering r _____



6 Use a dictionary to look up the word 'belittle'. Write the definition here.

7 There is a moral to this story: **Don't belittle little things.**
What do you think this moral means?

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- 1 The mouse woke the lion by running over his paws.
- 2 The lion let the mouse go because the mouse amused him by saying he might be able to help him one day.
- 3 The lion felt angry.
- 4 The lion escaped because the mouse bit through the ropes of the net.
- 5 small – little, flatten – crush, wandering – roaming, nibble – gnaw, large – huge
- 6 'Belittle' means to treat someone or something as if they or it are unimportant.
- 7 Child's own answer, for example, don't suggest little things are of less use or value just because they are small.