

The Lion and the Mouse Lesson Plan

YouTube recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsWTvf6uld8>

Book: *Bilingual Classic Tales: The Lion and the Mouse*

Author: Aesop (retold)

About This Book

This fable tells the story of a lion and a mouse. The lion is big and powerful, but the small mouse surprises him by helping in an important way. The lesson is: even small friends can make a big difference.

Acknowledge Both Languages

- Instead of skipping Spanish entirely, invite students to notice it:
“This book is written in two languages—English and Spanish
- You can read the English text aloud, but pause to show the Spanish text on the page.
- Consider weaving in simple phrases in Spanish that are easy to say (like “El león” or “El ratón”).
- If there are Spanish-speaking children, offer them the opportunity (never a requirement) to share how a word or phrase sounds in Spanish. This elevates their knowledge and fosters peer learning. Example: “Does anyone know how to say ‘mouse’ in Spanish? Yes, it’s ‘ratón.’ Thank you for teaching us!”

Before Reading (5 minutes)

1. Ask students to:

Sit “criss-cross”
Hands in lap
Eyes on you
Please raise hand to speak

2. Introduce yourself (your name, favorite childhood book).

3. Show the cover.

Say: “This story is called The Lion and the Mouse. The author is Aesop. It’s a fable, which means it teaches a lesson.”

Say: “This story takes place in the jungle, where lions live.”

Ask: “What do you notice about the lion and the mouse on the cover?”

“What do you think will happen between them?”

(Have students whisper to a partner. Count down from 5 to bring them back together.)

Vocabulary Routine (5 minutes total – do before reading)

General Directions for Each Word:

1. **Say the word** – You say the word, and students repeat it.
2. **Give the definition** – Use a short, kid-friendly meaning.
3. **Connect to the story** – Say how the word shows up in the book.
4. **Examples & non-examples** – Give one that matches and one that doesn't.
5. **Quick check** – Ask a yes/no question so students respond together.

Words for This Story

1. Mighty

Say: "Say the word: mighty." (Students repeat.)

Definition: **Say** "Mighty means very strong and powerful. The lion is mighty."

Example check: **Say** "Is a little kitten mighty? (No.) Is a superhero mighty? (Yes.)"

2. Helpless

Say: "Say the word: helpless." (Students repeat.)

Definition: **Say** "Helpless means you can't help yourself. The lion felt helpless in the trap."

Example check: **Say**, "If your shoe is untied, are you helpless? (No.) If you are stuck in a net, are you helpless? (Yes.)"

3. Trap

Say: "Say the word: trap." (Students repeat.)

Definition: **Say** "A trap is something that catches or holds. The hunters set a trap for the lion."

Example check: **Say**, "If you are in a swing, is it a trap? (No.) If you are caught in a net, is it a trap? (Yes.)"

4. Creature

Say: "Say the word: creature." (Students repeat.)

Definition: **Say:** "Creature means a living animal. A lion is a creature. A mouse is a creature too."

Example check: **Say:** "Is a rock a creature? (No.) Is a bird a creature? (Yes.)"

Read the Story (10 minutes)

- **Read** clearly with expression
- **Pause for three short questions:**
 1. When the lion catches the mouse, "What do you think the lion will do? Eat the mouse or let him go?"
 2. After the lion lets the mouse go, "Do you think the mouse will really keep his promise to help the lion someday?"
 3. When the lion is trapped: "What do you think the mouse will do to help? How would you feel if you were the lion?"

After Reading (5 minutes)

Ask:

- “Why did the lion let the mouse go?”
- “How did the mouse help the lion?”
- “What is the lesson of this fable?”
(Guide to answer: “Even small friends can make a big difference.”)
- “What would have happened if the lion had eaten the mouse? How would the story be different?”

Closing (2 minutes)

- **Say:** “This story was a fable — a story that teaches a lesson. The lesson is that kindness matters, and even someone small can help in a big way.”
- Hand each child their copy of the book. Encourage them to read it at home.