

A Scheme of Work for Guernsey Primary Schools to introduce 'The Epic Story of the Lion' to KS1 pupils. Key Stage 1 : Year 1 Age 5-6. Year 2 Age 6-7

Overview of Lesson 1. Literacy / Creative Arts/ Technology

Lesson duration: 60 minutes

Title of lesson: Introduction to 'The Epic Story of the Lion' by Victor Hugo

Pupils are given a brief introduction to the story adapted from a poem written by Victor Hugo for his grandchildren. Visuals are used to illustrate beginning of the story.

Differentiation Teacher uses discretion about how much or how little of the lion story to tell. Parts of this lesson could be adapted for reception class using the Aesop's fable of 'The Lion and the Mouse'. Some pupils will need help from a classroom assistant to construct their masks.

Practical Activity: Making Lion Masks

Learning Objectives: Pupils will be introduced to the Lion in a story. They will learn how to create their own lion masks using a paper plate and coloured paper. They will practise their fine motor skills, when learning how to cut out the shapes for their masks.

Learning Focus Creating and Making: Pupils respond to manipulating materials and constructing with their hands. They begin to select, arrange and make choices about ways of using art elements, materials and equipment.

Design, Creativity and Technology: Pupils explore products and learn that materials can be recycled and reused to produce new products. They develop skills in the safe use of basic tools and equipment, such as safety scissors, to cut, join, shape, mix and follow instructions to construct simple products or models.

Literacy : Pupils identify connections between texts and their personal experience. They listen to short predictable texts with familiar vocabulary and supportive images.

Prerequisite knowledge and/or links to previous/future lessons:

Pupils have previously learnt how to use scissors and glue sticks. This lesson will also link to past and future visual art lessons in which pupils will be required to make selections and choices about materials etc.

Resources, equipment and materials required:

Pictures of lions from different sources e.g.Photos of lions (google images)

Interactive Whiteboard (to display lion photos):

Simplified Epic Story of the Lion, the Prince, the Knight and the Hermit

Scissors

Safe glue sticks

Orange, brown and yellow paper (for the face, ears, whiskers and mane)

Black, brown and approved red felt tips (for nose, mouth details)

Smooth pole sticks (for handle)

Lesson Plan 1

Introduction: (whole class focus)

Title of the lesson: Literacy / Creative Arts/ Technology. 'The Knight and the Hermit'

Whole Class Focus

In storytime, pupils gather in front of the teacher and listen to the first part of a simplified version in English of Victor Hugo's 'Epic Story of the Lion' **'The Knight and the Hermit' (see attached story)**

Warm up will involve the pupils recalling story through question and answer session.

Game guessing and copying animal moves that the teacher performs. Pupils volunteer to take turns to mime different animal moves. (10 mins)

Main Components of Lesson:

1. Teacher explains that today's lesson will be focusing on the lion in the story they have heard. This will lead into discussion about animals and where they live.
2. Teacher shows pupils photos of real lions and the class will have a discussion about lions.
3. Teacher shows pupils the materials that will be used to create the lion mask. He/she will ask the pupils which materials would be suitable for which part of the lion (eg. paper plate for the face shape, orange paper for the mane).
4. Teacher demonstrates how to cut and construct the lion mask.
5. Pupils begin creating their lion masks. *they may need assistance in cutting the eye holes and attaching a pole stick for the handle. (45 mins)

Lesson Conclusion:

Pupils pack up their workspace and return unused materials. They leave masks on table to dry (names on the back). The class will have a few minutes to walk around and view their peers' lion mask creations (5 mins)

Assessment of pupil's learning:

During and after the lesson the teacher observes pupils' choices of materials and checks that they understand how to cut correctly and construct their lion, as demonstrated to them at the start of the class. Can the pupils apply their fine motor skills when cutting and pasting materials?

Links & Ideas: Excerpts from the recent **'Lion King'** film could be a fun link.

Lesson Evaluation:

Overview of Lesson 2. Key Stage 1 Year 1 Age 5-6. Year 2 Age 6-7 Lesson duration: 60 mins

Title of lesson: Literacy, Music, Drama and Dance/Movement. 'The Lion Hunt at Night'

Whole Class Focus

In storytime, pupils gather in front of the teacher and listen to the second part of a simplified version in English of 'The Epic Story of the Lion' by Victor Hugo **'The Lion Hunt at Night'**. (See attached story)

Learning Objectives: This lesson incorporates music, drama and dance elements. Pupils will learn how to sing elements of the song, **'The Lion Sleeps Tonight,'** from The Lion King. They also learn how to play bongo drums. The drama element involves the pupils performing a dance with the lion masks they made last lesson.

Differentiation: Parts of this lesson could be adapted for Reception Class using a lion puppet and other soft toys. Pupils can repeat words/actions from **'We're Going on a Lion Hunt'** by David Axtell
e.g. We're going on a lion hunt.....We're not scared

Interpersonal Development: Pupils interact with their peers and teachers in a range of contexts. They learn to play constructively together / encouraged to develop positive friendships with peers.

Music, Drama and Dance/Movement Pupils explore ways of moving and respond to movement stimuli such as rhythm, beat, music and words.

Literacy: Pupils listen to and use appropriate language features to respond to others in a familiar environment. They begin to identify connections between texts, words and their personal experience. They listen and identify rhyme, letter patterns and sounds in words.

Prerequisite knowledge and/or links to previous/future lessons: Pupils have previously started to explore **'The Epic Story of the Lion'**, so they are familiar with the story in particular how the lion moves and acts.

Resources required: The simplified lion story and pictures. **"The Lion Sleeps Tonight"** YouTube video: (focus on the song, not the video) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8miJJNi_W0

Equipment/ Materials required:

Interactive Whiteboard (to play music video)
Words of song on whiteboard,
Pupils' lion masks
Bongo drums

Lesson 2 Plan

Introduction: (Whole Class Focus)

Title of the lesson : Literacy, Song and Dance. 'The Lion Hunt at Night'

Whole Class Focus

Warm-up involves pupils in guessing and copying animal moves that the teacher performs. Guessing game where pupils volunteer to take turns to mime different animal moves

(10 mins)

Main Component of Lesson:

In storytime, pupils gather in front of the teacher and recall the story of the lion they heard about last lesson. Question and answer session. Teacher continues 'The Epic Story of the Lion' with '**The Lion Hunt at Night**' (see story attached)

1. Teacher plays the song, **The Lion Sleeps Tonight** and the pupils learn the chorus line. They practise it a few times.

In the jungle, the quiet jungle - The lion sleeps tonight
Near the village, the peaceful village. - The lion sleeps tonight
Near the village, the quiet village. - The lion sleeps tonight
Hush my darling, don't fear my darling - The lion sleeps tonight
Hush my darling, don't fear my darling. - The lion sleeps tonight
Chorus: A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh

2. Pupils are introduced to bongo drums. They will learn how to play them, to match the beat of the music.

3. The last section of this lesson will involve pupils moving and dancing like lions (with their lion masks)

4. Teacher splits the class into two groups, both groups getting the chance to be the music performers; singing and playing the bongo drums while the other half of the class does the dance and lion movements.

(45 mins)

Lesson Conclusion:

The lesson concludes with pupils having a class discussion about what aspects of the performance went well and which areas they think they should work on more for the following lesson.

(5 mins)

Assessment of pupils' learning:

During the lesson and after the lesson the teacher observes individual pupil's participation and performance in the whole class activity. The teacher observes which pupils are not involved and plans to give them plenty of encouragement before the performance in the following lesson.

Lesson Evaluation:

Overview of Lesson 3. Key Stage 1 Year 1 Age 5-6. Year 2 Age 6-7 Lesson duration: 60 mins

Title of lesson: Literacy, Performing Arts (Music and Drama) The Epic Story of the Lion 'The Dawn'

Whole Class Focus: Listening to the ending of the Lion Story and staging a Performance

Differentiation

Aesop's fable **'The Lion and the Mouse'** or **'We're Going on a Lion Hunt'** by David Axtell (versions based on this on YouTube) may be more suitable for Reception Class to prepare and perform

Learning Objectives and focus

The focus of this drama lesson will be on performance. Pupils have previously learnt the song, 'The Lion sleeps tonight' and the dance. This lesson involves pupils practising for an end of lesson performance, which will be filmed on ipads and put onto DVDs for parents.

Learning Focus

Interpersonal Development: 'Pupils interact with their peers and teachers in a range of contexts. They learn to play constructively together and are encouraged to develop positive friendships with peers.'

Music and Drama

Pupils explore ways of moving and respond to movement stimuli such as rhythm, beat, music and words.

Literacy

Pupils listen to and use appropriate language features to respond to others in a familiar environment. They identify connections between texts and their personal experience. They listen and identify rhyme, letter patterns and sounds in words.

Prerequisite knowledge and/or links to previous/future lessons:

Pupils have previously learnt the song and dance.

Resources required:

The Lion Sleeps Tonight YouTube video: (**focus on the song**, not the video)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8milJNj_W0

Equipment/ Materials required:

Interactive Whiteboard (to play music video) Words of song on whiteboard
Pupils' lion masks
Bongo drums
iPad
Recordable blank DVDs

Lesson 3 Plan

Title of Lesson: Literacy, Performing Arts (Music, Drama & Dance) The Epic Story of the Lion.

Introduction: (Whole Class Focus)

Warm up : Teacher asks children to recall what has happened so far in 'The Epic Story of the Lion' They gather in front of the teacher who reads the final part of story '**The Dawn**'
(see story attached) **Discussion about ending.** (10 mins)

Main Components of Lesson:

1. The first half of this lesson involves the pupils practising their performance- the two groups of pupils both get the chance to practise their music part and then their lion dance part. (10 mins)

2. The second half of the lesson involves the pupils performing to other pupils (who come into the classroom to be the audience). Pupils perform twice- performing the bongo drum music and singing for the first group of pupils who perform the lion movements and dance (the groups swap over, getting to perform both music and drama aspects).

*Teacher to film the performances on the iPad. (10 mins)

Lesson Conclusion:

1. Lesson will conclude with the teacher showing the class the video of pupils performance. (10 mins)

2. Pupils will sit in a circle and share with the class what their favourite thing was from the performance. (10 mins)

Assessment of pupil's learning:

During the drama performance the teacher will observe individual pupil's involvement, engagement and interaction with peers.

Teacher will burn copies of the performance onto DVDs for the pupils to take home to show their parents. Pupils can also take home their lion masks.

Lesson Evaluation:

Evaluation of Scheme of Work:

Words for Song: The Lion Sleeps Tonight

In the jungle, the mighty jungle
The lion sleeps tonight
In the jungle, the quiet jungle
The lion sleeps tonight
Near the village, the peaceful village
The lion sleeps tonight
Near the village, the quiet village
The lion sleeps tonight
Hush my darling, don't fear my darling
The lion sleeps tonight
Hush my darling, don't fear my darling
The lion sleeps tonight

(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)

In the jungle, the mighty jungle
The lion sleeps tonight
In the jungle, the quiet jungle
The lion sleeps tonight

(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)

Near the village, the peaceful village
The lion sleeps tonight
Near the village, the quiet village
The lion sleeps tonight

(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)

Hush my darling, don't fear my darling
The lion sleeps tonight
Hush my darling, don't fear my darling
The lion sleeps tonight

(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)
(A-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh, a-wimoweh)

Aesop's fable of 'The Lion and the Mouse' (option for Reception Class pupils)

A long, long time ago a little mouse was playing and messing around. He was making a lot of noise and all of a sudden he woke up the lion, the king of the animals.

"How dare you wake me up?" the lion roared, "I'm going to eat you all up!" And with that he placed his big paw upon the mouse's tiny body, so that the poor frightened little mouse couldn't move.

"Please, forgive me, oh, King of the animals! I didn't mean to wake you up. I was just playing! If you let me go now, maybe I can help you one day!" the mouse squeaked.

This made the lion roar with laughter. "You? Help me? Ha ha ha. You are so small, how could you help me?!" And with that he changed his mind, "Alright, I will let you go, because you would be such a tiny morsel anyway!"

A few months later the lion was prowling around, taking care of his majestic duties, when he got caught in a trap.

He struggled to get free, but the more he tried to free himself, the more he got tangled in the net. Luckily, the same little mouse was passing by and saw what had happened. The king of the animals was in trouble!

Happy to finally be able to help the lion, the mouse rushed to his aid and started gnawing through the ropes.

"I didn't believe you would be able to help me, but I was wrong," said the lion, when he was set free by the little mouse. From that day on, the lion and the mouse became good friends.

Original book 'We're Going on a Lion Hunt' by David Axtell or See Action Poem on YouTube based on original story where pupils repeat words and actions

We're Going on a Lion Hunt

We're going on a lion hunt.	I've got my binoculars
Oh, Look at that tall wavy grass.	It's so tall, we can't go under it.
Can't go over it.	Just going to have to go through it

We're going on a lion hunt.	I've got my binoculars
Uh oh, there's a big river.	Can't go over it
Can't go under it.	Going to have to swim it

We're going on a lion hunt.	I've got my binoculars
Ugh, look at all that mud.	Can't go over it
Can't go under it.	Going to have to go through it

We're going on a lion hunt.	I've got my binoculars
Uh oh, what's that.	We can't go over it
We can't go under it.	Going to have to go into it

We're going on a lion hunt.	I've got my binoculars
I'm a little scared.	Sure is dark in here
What's that in the corner.	I feel two big ears
I feel 1 wet nose.	I feel two sharp teeth
I know what that is.	Let's get out of here
Let's run out of the cave.	Quickly back through the mud
Let's cross the river.	Through the tall grass
Into the house, close the door!	That's a close one

(All together) Let's not go lion hunting anymore!

A Scheme of Work for Guernsey Primary Schools to introduce Victor Hugo's Lion poem to KS2
Year 3 (Age 7-8) Year 4 (Age 8-9) Year 5 (Age -10) and Year 6 (Age 10-11)

Lesson 1. Theme: 'Lions' 'The Big Story of the Lion' Lesson duration: (60 mins)

Whole Class Focus : Literacy, Science/Nature Conservation, Art, PHSCE (Being brave)

Introduction and Warm-up: Questions about lions. What do pupils know about lions? Have they read about lions in stories or seen them in wildlife programmes on TV? Teacher shows clip from a programme about lions in the wild. **Lions Battle to Survive | David Attenborough | Nature's Great Events | BBC.** Ask pupils how they feel about lions after seeing the clip? Do you admire them, fear them, think they should be in captivity or in the wild? Discussion. (10 mins)

Literacy: Ask if anyone has read **'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright?** A rhyming story about one little mouse trying to make himself heard and discovering along the way that even the smallest of us has the heart of a lion. (Suitable for Year 3?) Or, **The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis?** Focus on **the Lion, Aslan.** (Suitable for Years 5 & 6?)

Has anyone seen the recent film of 'The Lion King' ? (July 2019) Teacher gives a short introduction. 'Simba's Father, Mufasa, wants Simba, his son, one day to inherit the throne. But Simba's wicked uncle, Scar, plots to usurp Mufasa's throne by luring father and son into a stampede of wildebeests. Simba escapes, and only Mufasa is killed. Simba returns as an adult to take back his homeland from Scar with the help of his friends Timon and Pumbaa.' **What happens next in the film ?**

Also worth considering: Sir Brian Botany, in the Christopher Robin books. 'I am Sir Brian, as bold as a lion': knight & lion in one. And **'The Lion and Albert', Stanley Holloway's monologue .** (15 mins)

Presentation of Poem: 'Today we are going to hear a story that you may never have heard of before because it was written In French. **Differentiation:** Pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 may need to refer to the simplified 'story' of the lion (attached) before the reader's presentation of the poem. Victor Hugo wrote this poem for his grandchildren and it was probably written here in Guernsey so you can imagine Victor Hugo reading it to his grandchildren in **Hauteville House.** Has anyone been to Victor Hugo's house in Guernsey? **Picture of Hauteville.** The poem is about a 10 year old boy who is snatched away by a lion from the edge of his palace garden. The Paladin in the poem is an heroic Knight who volunteers to go and bring the boy back from the clutches of the lion. The Hermit is a holy man who prays and lives alone. He also tries to rescue the boy. It is a very exciting story and now you can hear it in English.'

Pupils listen to first two parts of the poem, **'The Paladin' and 'The Hermit' from Timothy Adès' 'Big Story of the Lion'** translated from Victor Hugo's famous poem. Questions and answers to check understanding and explain any difficult passages in the poem. (10 mins)

Creative Artwork:

Reader makes reference to the drawings by the Illustator, Emily Johns, and invites pupils to do their own illustrations of the part of the story they have heard so far. They can do charcoal sketches in their own style or perhaps in the style of Emily Johns. e.g. Make a sketch of a Paladin (Knight with spear) or a Hermit (Holy man or Monk wearing a long hooded cloak)

Pupils decide on their best sketches and hand them to teacher to be entered into the Creative Art Challenge Competition. Remember to write full name, class and school on final entries and pack away everything (25 mins)

Resources and References

Sketch pads/charcoal. Cut-outs of Knights, Monks, Kings, Palaces, Forests, Caves, Lions etc.
Victor Hugo's 'L'Art d'être grand-père', Calmann-Lévy, éditeurs, 1877 (p. 205-225). Timothy Adès English translation 'The Big Story of the Lion' from 'The Art of being a Grandfather'
English adaptation of l'épopée du Lion' for young children by Margaret Jones (attached)

Lesson Evaluation:

Lesson 2 for KS2 Year 3 (Age 7-8) Year 4 (Age 8-9) Year 5 (Age -10) and Year 6 (Age 10-11)

Theme: 'The Big Story of the Lion'

Lesson duration: (60 mins)

Whole Class Focus : Literacy / Poetry / Science / Creating a lion's head shaped poem

Introduction and Warm-up: Recap on previous lesson. What was the story about? What did they sketch? What do you think about the lion's behaviour towards people? (5 mins)

Reporter style English /Science - using a YouTube of a David Attenborough clip of lions.

1. Teacher shows YouTube clip from David Attenborough's BBC programme about lions.
2. Teacher shows clip again but tells beforehand that this time, the sound will be muted so that they can watch the video and write their own voice-over describing the lions' movement and actions.
3. Pupils take turns being a TV reporter reading out their descriptions of what is happening in the clip. (15 mins)

Whole Class focus:

Pupils listen to the reading of the next part of the Lion Poem, **'The Hunt and the Night'** (10 mins)
<https://hearingeye.org/publications/the-bigstory-of-the-lion/>

Comprehension Questions:

What is the lion's reaction when he is disturbed in his sleep by noises in the forest ?
What does he do to frighten the soldiers away?
What has happened to the Prince? Is he still alive?
What does he decide to do and when? (5 mins)

Literacy : Writing a poem in the shape of a lion

Pupils have a go at writing their own poems about lions having watched video clip and heard the poem of ' The Big Story of the Lion' by Victor Hugo.

1. Each pupil suggests one line to describe the lion's appearance, movement, noise etc
e.g. Its mane flows like sunlight, silently prowling, a vicious roar etc...
2. Pupils write their different descriptive lines on a piece of paper and the teacher collects them in
3. Teacher shows them how they can put all these lines together to make a poem.
4. Teacher demonstrates how the poem can fit into the shape of a lion's head.
4. Each pupil receives a template of a lion's head from the teacher.
5. Each pupil makes up their own lines for a poem to fit into the lion's head template. (20 mins)

Pupils write their name, class and school on the back and give them in to the teacher who displays them on the classroom wall. Possible individual entries for Creative Arts Competition. (5 mins)

Materials and resources:

Copy of Big Story of the Lion

Adapted story version for young children

Clip of Lion from RA's BBC Lion Programme

Duplicated templates of shape of lion's head / Colour pens or pencils for writing lion poems

Lesson Evaluation:

Lesson 3 for KS2 Year 3 (Age 7-8) Year 4 (Age 8-9) Year 5 (Age -10) and Year 6 (Age 10-11)

Theme: 'Lions' 'The Big Story of the Lion'

Lesson duration: (60 mins)

Whole Class Focus : Literacy, RE, IT, Music, Nature Conservation, Art

Introduction and Warm-up: Knights, Hermits, Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses

What do these people look like? What do they wear? If you could choose, who would you like to be in this story and why? (5 mins)

Song: 'When a Knight won his spurs in the stories of old

When a knight won his **spurs** in the stories of old
He was gentle and brave he was **gallant** and bold
With a **shield** on his arm and a **lance** in his hand
For God and for **valour** he rode through the land

No **charger** have I, and no **sword** by my side
Yet still to **adventure** and **battle** I ride
Though back into storyland **giants** have fled
And the **knights** are no more and the **dragons** are dead

Let **faith** be my shield and let joy be my **steed**
Against the **dragons of anger** the ogres of greed
And let me **set free with the sword** of my youth
From the **castle of darkness** the power of **the truth**

Music: Listen to the song or, if you prefer, sing it with teacher

(5 mins)

Literacy /RE : Discusson

1. Which words rhyme in the song?
2. What do the words highlighted mean? Use an online dictionary to find out if you don't know.
3. Which highlighted words describe the Knight in the poem ?
4. A Knight was supposed to be chivalrous and courteous. How courteous was the Knight in the poem? Did he win his 'Spurs' from the King?
5. What do you think this song can tell us about how to face life's adventures and challenges then and today? (10 mins)

Whole Class Focus: Pupils listen to the reading of the last part of the Lion Poem, '**The Dawn**'

Discussion: Do you like the ending? Who would you say is the hero of the poem? Why? (10 mins)

Creative Art Challenge: Equipment: Paper, Paints, brushes, overalls etc.

As a class or individual pupil, decide **either** Paint a forest scene including the lion's cave

or Paint a picture of the King's palace.

This lesson would be best held in a room where Art overalls, paint and brushes are available

If you want to enter your picture for the Creative Art Competition, you are free to choose whatever picture the poem inspires you to paint. (25 mins)

Pupils tidy away / put paintings in a safe place to dry with names, class and school on back (5 mins)

Scheme of Work & Lesson Evaluation:

The Epic Story of the Lion' by Victor Hugo. An adapted translation of the story in English for young children by Margaret Jones

The Knight and the Hermit

Once upon a time there was a big lonely lion living in a wild forest. Now lions are huge, fierce creatures and children are told not to go near them for fear of their lives. But one day a ten year old Prince wandered out of the palace gardens to the edge of the wild forest. There he was spotted by a lion who was wandering around looking for something to do. He was perhaps feeling bored and wanted someone to play with, someone not afraid of lions. The big lion crept up close to the boy so as not to scare him. He lifted him up with his jaws and carried him off into the wild forest. The lion was not really sure why he had done this but certainly he had no intention of hurting the boy. Perhaps he just wanted to show the boy where he lived in the forest, a place he considered even more beautiful than the gardens of the palace. The lion just picked up the Prince in his mouth as carefully as you would pick a flower without damaging it in any way. He carried the boy off into the forest where birds were building their nests in the trees and flowing streams were bordered by flowers. The lion's cave was deep in the forest. Now lions are sometimes thought to be generous, noble beasts. However, when the King, the Prince's father, realised what had happened, he was filled with fear for his son's life. His only thoughts were for his bright-eyed innocent son who was only ten years old and had been carried off in the jaws of a fierce lion! What might have happened to him? What should he do? The little Prince was now very frightened. He knew that his family would be worried but all he could do was to stay with the lion in his cave and eat the grass and raw meat that the lion generously shared with him. The young boy became very weak and homesick for his family back home in the palace. He missed his little sister who was only two years old and he thought of his father. The King was quite old now and the Prince knew that his father wanted him one day to become king. When the King told his men what had happened, they were all shocked by the terrible news and wanted to help their master find his son and rescue him from the terrible lion. A brave Knight approached the King and said he was prepared to go into the forest to rescue the Prince. The King thanked him and sent him on his way in the direction of the lion's cave. The brave man fought his way through the thick oak forest, pushing the branches aside until he came to a dark cave where the lion lived. Bravely he stepped inside and saw the lion lying peacefully dreaming on a bed of golden leaves with his head on a pillow of granite stone. The brave man moved closer towards the sleeping lion but the huge creature did not stir. So the man drew his sword and with a loud voice said to the lion, "Tell me, grisly beast, where you are hiding the child? If you don't tell me where he is, I'll kill you with my sword. But if you hand him over to me, we will be friends." The lion slowly raised his head, stared at the man and simply shook his head. So the man began to threaten him with his sword. This was a mistake because sleeping lions do not like to be disturbed and worse still to be threatened with a sword. But instead of roaring, the lion simply smiled a toothy grin and made a purring sound. This was a bad sign too because he was just thinking to himself that this man would make a tasty meal for tea. So what do you think happened?.....Yes, the mighty lion just gobbled him up, went back to sleep and snored. A few days later, a Hermit in a woollen hooded cloak approached the cave and stepped inside to pray. He saw the body of poor Knight lying in the corner. The lion woke up and yawned when saw the Hermit standing there shaking with fear. The lion grinned showing all his teeth and said to the Hermit "Want something?" "Yes, my King," said the Hermit. "What do you mean?" asked the lion. "Oh, I mean, Prince – The child," said the Hermit". "Are you

trying to tell me the child is a prince or a king?" The Hermit bowed to the lion and said "Oh, majestic one, why did you take the child?" "For fun", said the lion, "For company on a rainy day." "Release him!" said the Hermit. But the lion replied, "No, he's mine". "So do you mean you going to eat him then?," asked the Hermit. "Certainly not," said the lion. "I'm not hungry." "But think of his grieving father," pleaded the Hermit. " Well, men came here and killed my mother when she was a royal lioness," said the lion. "The boy's father is royal, like you," said the Hermit. The lion roared "That's not true. He's just a man. I am a lion and I speak with a royal voice." "And what happens if the King loses his son?" asked the Hermit. "Well, he still has a daughter". "But she does not have right to become King one day", said the Hermit. "Please consider his position!" said the Hermit. "That does not make any difference to me!" said the lion." "You'll be punished by God," said the Hermit. "Just go away," said the lion. So the Hermit left the cave.

The Lion Hunt at Night

The lion went back to sleep in his cave. Suddenly there was a noise of dogs howling and men shouting. Flaming torches sent out flickering lights through the forest. The King had sent his army to find the young Prince and rescue him from the great lion. They were armed with bows, arrows and spears ready to kill the great beast. When the lion heard the commotion outside his cave, he opened one eye but did not raise his head from his pillow of rock. He just fidgeted and moved his great tail to make himself more comfortable on his golden bed of leaves. The soldiers and dogs now moved forward as quietly as possible but they began to tremble with fear as they reached the entrance to the lion's cave. As soon as they saw the lion lying there, they shot at him with their arrows. The lion frowned and shook most of them off but blood was soon running from his great body. He faced the army and let out a great and dreadful roar making the soldiers shake in their boots. Immediately, they fled for their lives and disappeared. The lion was still very angry having being awakened from his sleep at night. To show how angry he really was, he climbed to the top of the mountain and let out another enormous roar so that the King and all the city could hear it. He shouted, "King, you have shamefully attacked me though I have not harmed your son. He is alive and tomorrow at dawn, I will bring him into your city for everyone to see that he is alive. I will enter your palace and make a meal of him in front of all your people!"

The Dawn

When the people in the city heard the lion roaring loudly from the mountain, some tried to hide and others ran as far away as they could. The King fled immediately because he was frightened for his life. As the lion strolled up to the great golden dome of the palace, he noticed that there were no guards standing on the battlements. The palace was deserted. The lion was angry because he wanted to speak his mind and he couldn't roar because he was carrying the boy carefully in his jaws. So the lion walked on through the empty courtyards and corridors with their golden ceilings until he came to the empty throne. He continued to stroll through magnificent halls until he stopped suddenly in his tracks when he saw a very small child dressed in white playing in the corner. She had been left behind in the panic and was unaware of what had happened. The lion watched her as she sang to herself smiling. He noticed her sparkling deep blue eyes and he thought she was the sweetest thing he had ever seen. He entered the room where she was playing with her toys and when she looked up and saw him with the poor boy in his jaws, she cried out, "O my brother! O my brother!" She immediately stood up as tall as she could in front of the lion and wagged her finger at him. The lion gently lowered down the sleeping boy next to the little girl and said to her, "Here you are now. Don't be cross!"

The End