

The Big Story of the Prince and the Lion

The Prince and the Lion

Once upon a time, there was a big lonely lion living in a wild forest.

Now lions are huge, fierce creatures and children are warned never to go near them.

But one day, a lion wandered out of the forest to the edge of the palace gardens where a young Prince was playing.

When the lonely lion saw the young Prince, he lifted him up and carried him off into the woods.

The boy was very scared when he realised that he was in the jaws of a lion.

The lion wanted to show the boy the wonders of the wild forest where he lived.

They passed tall trees and flowing streams bordered by beautiful flowers.

Deeper and deeper they went into the woods until they came to a big cave in the rocks.

It was now quite dark and it was even darker when they entered the cave where the lion had his den.

The lion laid the boy down gently onto some soft leaves and offered him raw meat, fresh grass and water for his supper.

Then the lion lay down to sleep on a bed of dry branches. For a pillow, he laid his head on a big granite stone.

The lion soon fell asleep but the boy stayed awake because he was very frightened.

The lion had been kind to him so far but the young Prince was still very scared.

The lion soon began to snore loudly and the boy could not go to sleep.

He wondered what might happen to him and he was very frightened.

He wanted to go home to his family.

He knew his father would be very worried when he heard what had happened to his son.

He thought about his baby sister too.

When the King heard that a lion had carried away his son into the forest, he called all his men together and asked for their help.

The Knight

A Knight came to the King and said he would go into the forest to find the lion and rescue the Prince.

The King thanked him and sent him on his way.

The Knight set off into the forest and followed the lion's tracks until he came to a cave where he saw the lion sleeping peacefully and the boy asleep on the leaves.

The Knight approached the lion with his sword ready to kill him.

But a sleeping lion hates to be awakened from his sleep.

When he saw the Knight threatening him with a sword, he did what any lion would do.

He pounced on the Knight and ate him up for breakfast.

The Hermit

The next day a Hermit entered the cave.

He begged the lion to hand over the Prince to him because the King wanted him back at the palace.

But the lion refused to hand him over to the Hermit and waved him away with his paws saying,

‘Just go away !’

The lion went back to sleep and the Hermit left the cave without the Prince.

The Hunt and the Night

The next day, the King decided to send an army of soldiers to kill the lion with their bows and spears.

When the lion heard the soldiers approaching his cave with their dogs barking loudly, he roared an almighty roar.

It was so loud that the soldiers were terrified and all ran away.

It seemed that nobody, not even the King’s men, were strong enough to defeat the mighty lion.

That evening the lion climbed to the top of the hill facing the palace and let out a mighty roar.

He warned the people that he would return to the palace with the Prince the following day at dawn.

They were all terrified that the lion would kill the Prince in front of their eyes when he arrived at the palace.

They feared for their own lives too.

The Dawn

At dawn, the lion made his way through the forest back to the palace, carrying the Prince gently in his jaws.

He noticed that there were no soldiers waiting for him on the battlements.

Majestically, he entered the great hall hoping to find the King on his throne.

But the hall was empty.

He walked through the long corridors until he came to a door which was half-open.

In the corner of the room, he saw a little girl playing with her toys.

She had been left behind when everyone else had fled from the palace.

The little girl looked up at him and smiled.

She had the most beautiful blue eyes he had ever seen.

When she saw the Prince in the jaws of the lion, she said,

O my brother !

My brother !

O My brother !

The lion immediately lowered the Prince gently down at the little girl's feet and said,

HERE YOU ARE !

PLEASE DON'T BE CROSS !