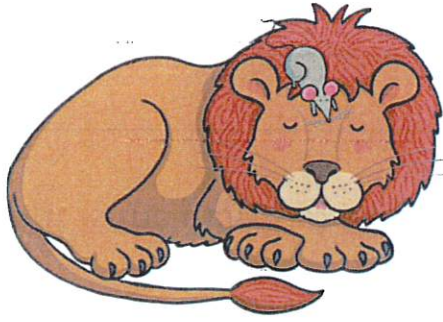


The Lion and the Mouse



One day, a proud lion was asleep in the wood, his head resting on his paws. A timid mouse came along. The mouse didn't see the lion and ran across the lion's nose.

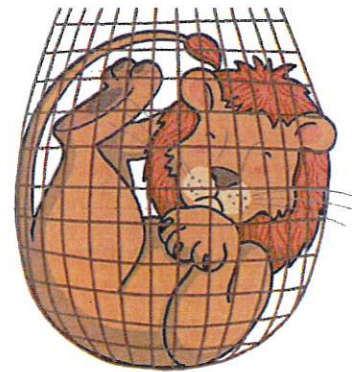
The lion woke up from his nap. He was cross with the mouse. "You woke me up!" he roared and laid his paw on the mouse, ready to gobble her up.

The mouse was scared. "Please let me go!" begged the mouse. "If you let me go, I will repay you one day!"

"You are funny!" said the lion. "How could a mouse help a lion?"

The lion laughed at the idea that a mouse could ever help him. But he was generous and let the mouse go.

Some days later, the lion was caught in a hunter's net. Unable to get out, the lion roared in anger. The mouse remembered the lion's voice and ran quickly to the net.



The mouse saw the lion struggling in the net and had an idea. She gnawed on the net until it broke and the lion was able to escape. The lion was free.

"Even a mouse can help a lion!" declared the tiny mouse.

From that day on, the mouse and the lion became friends forever.

A kindness is never wasted.

