

THE LION AND THE MOUSE from *Aesop's Fables*

A Lion lay asleep in the forest, his great head resting on his paws. A **timid** little Mouse came upon him **unexpectedly**, and in her **fright** and **haste** to get away, ran across the Lion's nose. **Roused** from his nap, the Lion laid his huge paw angrily on the tiny creature to kill her.



"Spare me!" begged the poor Mouse. "Please let me go and someday I will surely **repay** you."

The Lion was much amused to think that a Mouse could ever help him. But he was **generous** and finally let the Mouse go.

Some days later, while **stalking** his prey in the forest, the Lion was caught in the **tangles** of a hunter's net. Unable to free himself, he filled the forest with his angry roaring. The Mouse knew the voice and quickly found the Lion **struggling** in the net. Running to one of the great ropes that bound him, she **gnawed** it until it split apart, and soon the Lion was free.

"You laughed when I said I would repay you," said the Mouse. "Now you see that even a Mouse can help a Lion."

A kindness is never wasted.



Why does the Lion think the mouse cannot repay him?

What is a fable?

A fable is a short story, usually involving two main characters. In this case, the main characters are _____ and _____. In a fable, the character's act like humans in their thoughts, words and actions. There is always a lesson to be learned in a fable. What is the lesson here? Use your own words to describe it.