

1 The Lion and the Mouse

One day, a mouse ran into a sleeping lion. The lion woke up and caught the mouse.

“I’m sorry,” said the mouse.

“Please don’t eat me. I’m too little for you,” cried the mouse.

“I’ll help you one day if you let me go.”

“How can a little mouse help a big lion?” the lion laughed.

“I’ll let you go. You are too little for me anyway.”

A few days later, some hunters caught the lion and tied him to a tree.

“Roar! Roar!” The lion made loud sounds. The mouse heard and ran to the sounds. He saw the lion in a net.

“I’ll help you, my friend,” said the mouse. The mouse bit the rope and soon the net broke. The lion was free. “I told you I would help you one day,” said the mouse. From that day on, they were the best friends in the forest.

2 The Fox and the Goat

A fox one day fell into a deep well and could find no way out. A thirsty goat, came to the same well, and seeing the fox, asked if the water was good.

"It's wonderful," shouted the fox from the bottom of the well. "Come on down."

The goat, thinking only of his thirst, jumped down. But just as he drank, he realized he was trapped! The fox had an idea. "If," said he, "you will place your forefeet upon the wall and bend your head, I will run up your back and escape, and will help you out afterwards."

The goat agreed and the fox leaped upon his back. Steadying himself with the goat's horns, he safely reached the top of the well and ran off as fast as he could.

"What about me?" shouted the goat from the bottom of the well.

The fox was long gone, and the goat was very wet.