

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.

"You look good to eat. I'm going to eat you up," said the lion. He picked the mouse up and was ready to eat him.

"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."



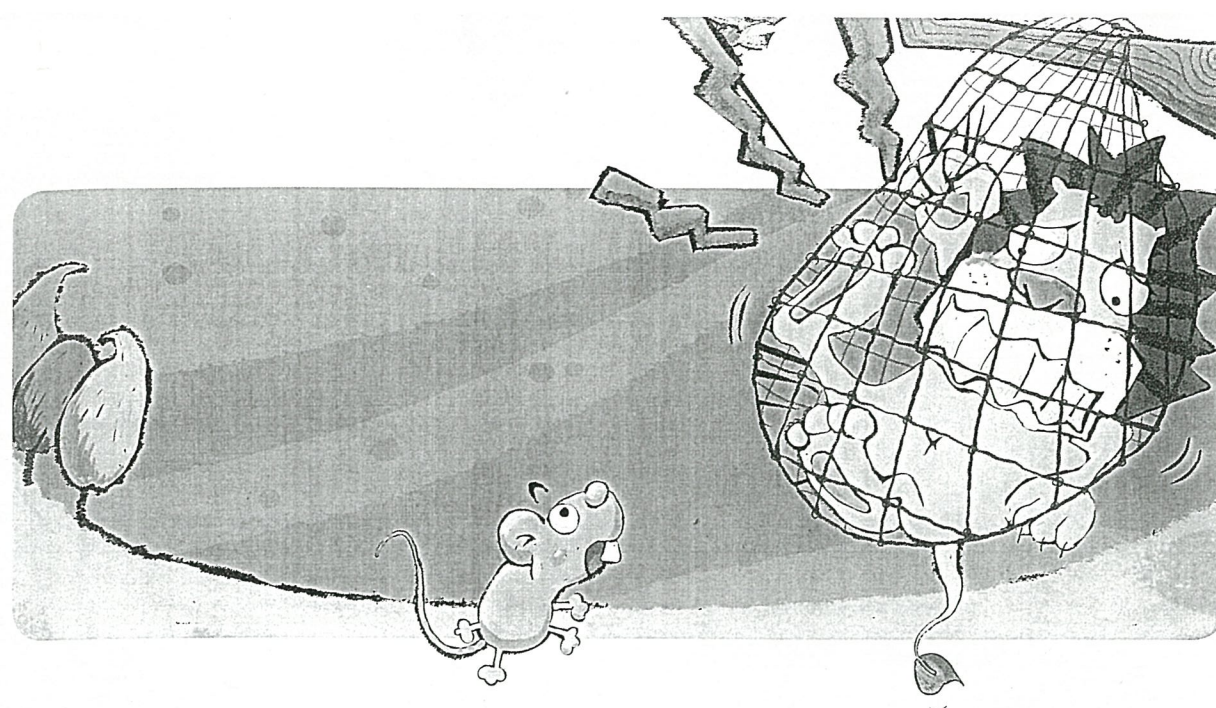
"How can a little mouse help a big lion?" the lion laughed.

"I'll let you go. You are too little for me anyway."

"Thank you," said the mouse. The lion put the mouse down, and the mouse ran away.

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.

"What can you do? You are too little," said the lion.

"No, I'm not. Look what I can do," said the mouse. The mouse bit the rope and soon the net broke. The lion was free.

"Thank you!" said the lion. "You are little, but what a big help!"

"I told you I would help you one day," said the mouse. The lion put the mouse on his back and ran into the forest. From that day on, they were the best of friends.

