Word Preview

Directions: Read each of the sentences below from The Lion and the Mouse and “An Unlikely Friendship,” then write what you think the word in bold means, based on context. We’ve provided a few hints for you. The words are in the order in which they appear in the play and the article.

1. **forage:** “In its nest, a family of mice prepares to go forage for food.”
   
   I think this word means ____________________________________________

2. **relent:** “Finally, Father and Mother relent.” (Hint: What might your parents do if you explain politely why they should change their minds about a strict rule?)
   
   I think this word means ____________________________________________

3. **laden:** “Tiny spies a bush laden with white fruit.”
   
   I think this word means ____________________________________________

4. **famished:** “Zunna berries! I’m famished.” (Hint: Why might someone be excited to see food?)
   
   I think this word means ____________________________________________

5. **glint:** “His sharp teeth glint in the moonlight.”
   
   I think this word means ____________________________________________

6. **capable:** “Father, maybe I am not as capable as I thought.” (Hint: The speaker of this line is afraid she can’t do everything she thought she could.)
   
   I think this word means ____________________________________________

7. **snared:** “After setting up the net, the hunters depart, confident that Lion will be snared by morning.”
   
   I think this word means ____________________________________________

8. **sanctuary:** “He was rescued by a group of caring people and brought to Haller Park, a sanctuary in the African country of Kenya that provides a safe home for wild animals in need of help.”
   
   I think this word means ____________________________________________

Your turn! On a separate sheet of paper, write a sentence using each pair of words below.

1. forage, famished  
2. capable, laden  
3. snared, glint  
4. relent, sanctuary
Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: After reading *The Lion and the Mouse*, go back and reread sections to answer the questions below.

1. In Scene 1, Tiny begs to go out into the night, even though she is small. What does this tell you about her?

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2. In Scenes 2 and 3, what dangers does Tiny run into? How does she escape them? What can you conclude about Tiny?

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3. In Scene 4, what is Lion suggesting when he says, “I only eat meat, no matter how miniature the morsel”?

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4. Why does Lion laugh when Tiny says, “If you spare my life, someday I will return the favor”? Does Tiny really mean it?

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5. Why does Tiny go to help Lion when she hears him howling?

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6. In the end, Lion says, “Never could I imagine being saved by such a small creature.” What has he learned?

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Think About It! p. 3

Close-Reading Questions: After reading “An Unlikely Friendship,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below.

7. How does the photo of Owen and Mzee on page 27 help you understand the article?
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8. How did Owen and Mzee become friends?
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9. How does the author explain their friendship?
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Critical-Thinking Questions: After answering the close-reading questions, answer the critical-thinking questions below, thinking about the meaning of the whole play and article.

10. What is the moral of The Lion and the Mouse?

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11. Why does Tiny repeat throughout the play, “You’d be surprised at what I can do”?

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12. How are Lion and Mouse similar to Owen and Mzee?

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Think About It!

Directions: After reading The Lion and the Mouse and “An Unlikely Friendship,” go back and reread sections to answer the questions below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Close-Reading Questions:

1. In Scene 1, Tiny begs to go out into the night, even though she is small. What does this tell you about her?

2. In Scenes 2 and 3, what dangers does Tiny run into? How does she escape them? What can you conclude about Tiny?

3. In Scene 4, what is Lion suggesting when he says, “I only eat meat, no matter how miniature the morsel”?

4. Why does Lion laugh when Tiny says, “If you spare my life, someday I will return the favor”? Does Tiny really mean it?

5. Why does Tiny go to help Lion when she hears him howling?

6. In the end, Lion says, “Never could I imagine being saved by such a small creature.” What has he learned?

7. How does the photo of Owen and Mzee on page 27 help you understand the article?

8. How did Owen and Mzee become friends?

9. How does the author explain their friendship?

Critical-Thinking Questions:

10. What is the moral of The Lion and the Mouse?

11. Why does Tiny repeat throughout the play, “You'd be surprised at what I can do”?

12. How are Lion and Mouse similar to Owen and Mzee?
Think About It!

**Close-Reading Questions:** Read *The Lion and the Mouse* and the pairing “An Unlikely Friendship.” Then go back and reread sections to answer the questions below.

**The Lion and the Mouse**

1. In Scene 1, Tiny begs to go out into the night with her family. She says, “You’d be surprised at what I can do.” What does this tell you about her character?

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2. Name three dangers Tiny runs into in Scenes 2 and 3. How does her size help her get out of danger?

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3. In Scene 4, why does Lion laugh when Tiny says, “If you spare my life, someday I will return the favor”? 

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4. Why does Tiny run to help Lion when she hears him howling?

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5. What has Lion learned by the end of the story?

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“An Unlikely Friendship”

6. What can you tell about Owen and Mzee from looking at the photo on page 27? How does it help you understand the article?

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Critical-Thinking Question (a big question about the play and article):
7. How is the friendship between Lion and Mouse like the friendship between Owen and Mzee?

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What Lion Learned

**Directions:** The play *The Lion and the Mouse* is based on a fable. Every fable has a moral, or a message you can learn from it. In this story, Lion learns a lesson. Answer the questions below to figure out what it is.

1. In Scene 1, what can you tell about Tiny from what her different family members say about her?

2. In Scene 3, what can you tell about Tiny from her crossing paths with the crocodiles?

3. In Scene 4, what deal does Tiny offer Lion? What does Lion think of it?

4. What can you tell about Tiny from her actions when she hears Lion roaring for help in Scene 7?

5. What is Lion’s opinion of Tiny at the end of the play?

**The Moral:** By the end of the play, what important lesson has Lion learned? Write one line from the play that could express the moral. Then state the moral in your own words.

From the play: “______________________________”

Your own words: ____________________________________________

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The Lion and the Mouse Quiz

Directions: Read the play The Lion and the Mouse and the article “An Unlikely Friendship” in the September 2015 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Which word best describes Tiny’s character?
   A confident  C dangerous
   B loving     D afraid

2. In Scene 4, why doesn’t Lion eat Tiny?
   A Lion thinks Tiny is too small to eat.
   B Tiny tricks Lion into letting her go.
   C Lion thinks Tiny is funny.
   D Lion knows that Tiny will save his life one day.

3. Which line from the story supports the answer to question 2?
   A “I eat only meat, no matter how miniature the morsel.”
   B “Wait! If you spare my life, someday I will return the favor.”
   C “You are no bigger than my front tooth.”
   D “If nothing else, you are entertaining.”

4. What does snared mean in the phrase “the hunters depart, confident that Lion will be snared by morning”?
   A kidnapped  C frightened
   B trapped     D hurt

5. Which of the following is NOT a moral of this play?
   A Friendship can come from unlikely places.
   B Your judgments of others can be wrong.
   C Two heads are better than one.
   D Someone who looks weak might be very strong.

6. Based on the article, why is it surprising that Owen and Mzee became friends?
   A They could easily hurt each other.
   B Hippos usually live alone.
   C Mzee already had another family.
   D A hippo lives on land, while a tortoise lives underwater.

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the play and article.

7. How has Lion changed by the end of the play?

8. How have Owen and Mzee helped one another?
The Lion and the Mouse Quiz

Directions: Read the play The Lion and the Mouse and the article “An Unlikely Friendship” in the September 2015 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Which of the following best describes Tiny’s character?
   - A confident
   - B loving
   - C innocent
   - D afraid

2. Which line from the play supports the answer to question 1?
   - A “Tiny disappears into a crack in the earth . . .”
   - B “Tiny backs away as Cobra rears up.”
   - C “I may be small, but you’d be surprised at what I can do.”
   - D “Father, maybe I am not as capable as I thought.”

3. What does Lion mean when he says, “I eat only meat, no matter how miniature the morsel”?
   - A He likes eating snacks.
   - B He plans to eat Tiny.
   - C He is very hungry.
   - D He hates eating fruits and vegetables.

4. What does snared mean in the phrase “the hunters depart, confident that Lion will be snared by morning”?
   - A kidnapped
   - B trapped
   - C frightened
   - D hurt

5. When Tiny saves Lion from the net, you can infer that Lion feels _____.
   - A surprised
   - B clever
   - C annoyed
   - D weak

6. Which line from the story supports the answer to question 5?
   - A “Creatures of the forest, help me!”
   - B “Have you come to taunt me, now that I am powerless?”
   - C “Never could I imagine being saved by such a small creature.”
   - D “. . . Lion bows before his new friend.”

7. Which of the following is NOT a moral of this play?
   - A Friendship can come from unexpected places.
   - B Your judgments of others can be wrong.
   - C Two heads are better than one.
   - D Someone who looks weak might be strong.

8. According to the article “An Unlikely Friendship,” what is one reason Owen and Mzee became friends?
   - A Owen lost his family and needed comfort and companionship.
   - B Mzee was famously grumpy and tired of being alone.
   - C Hippos and tortoises are surprisingly similar.
   - D Owen thought he was a tortoise.

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the play and article.

9. How has Lion changed by the end of the play?

10. Why does the author describe Owen and Mzee’s relationship as an “unlikely friendship”?
My name: ____________________________________________

Teacher's name: ______________________________________

School name: _________________________________________

School address: _________________________________________

School phone: __________________________________________

(Remember to include your school’s city, state, and ZIP code!)
See page 26 of the September 2015 Storyworks for more information about this contest.

My Response

The moral, or lesson, of a fable is usually written in one sentence. Write a moral for this fable, then explain why it is fitting, using examples from the play.

Entries will be judged on . . .

- a clearly stated main idea
- proper use of supporting details

- good organization
- grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Please continue on another piece of paper if you need more room.