

# **The lion and the mouse**

**A family of mice lived in the long grass near a village.**

**One hot day the mice went to the village to find some food.**

**The children of the village were playing with sticks and hoops in front of the houses.**

**The women of the village sat under a mango tree and cut up meat and vegetables for dinner. They had sharp knives.**

**The men of the village sat under another mango tree and rested.**

**Suddenly one child saw  
the mice near the  
vegetables.**

**All the children started to  
run after the mice with  
their sticks.**

**Then the women started to  
run after the mice with  
their knives.**

**Then the men got up and started to run after their wives.**

**The mice ran into the long grass. They ran and ran and ran.**

**One little mouse stopped to rest.**

**Suddenly a lion picked up the mouse with his paw.**

**The mouse squeaked to the lion, “Please put me down. Please, please put me down. I want to run and find my family.”**

**The lion said, “No. I think I will eat you. I’m a little bit hungry.”**

**The mouse said, “Please, please don’t eat me. If you are good to me, I will be good to you one day.”**

**The lion smiled.**

**But he put the mouse back on his feet and the mouse ran into the long grass.**

**That night the people of the village heard the lion.**

**Next day the men of the village made a big hole in the long grass.**

**They put a net over the hole. Then they put some leaves over the net. Then the men went back to the village for a rest.**

**At night the lion fell into the hole. His feet were stuck in the net.**

**The lion was angry. He roared and roared.**

**The mouse heard the lion and ran to the hole. He squeaked, “Don’t worry. I will help you.”**

**The lion roared and roared.**

**The mouse cut big holes in the net with his sharp teeth near the lion's feet.**

**The lion got out of the net. Then he got out of the hole. He roared and roared and then he ran away into the long grass.**

**The men of the village  
heard the lion.**

**They picked up their sharp  
knives and ran to the hole  
in the long grass.**

**The hole was empty.**

**The men went back to the  
village for a rest.**