

The lion's paw

Set 7 Story 2

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Vocabulary check

Discuss the meaning (as used in the story) after the children have read each word.

	definition:	sentence/phrase:
den	a cave where animals live	The cave was a lion's den!
mighty	large and powerful	The lion opened his mighty jaws.
thorn	sharp twig	A sharp thorn was stuck deep...
paw	animal's foot	...in the lion's paw.
scornfully	nastily	"You have broken the law," he shouted scornfully.
slops	horrid, watery soup	He had straw to sleep on and slops to eat.
jeering	shouting and teasing	There were thousands of people shouting and jeering.

Punctuation to note in this story:

1. Capital letters to start sentences and full stops to end sentences
2. Capital letters for names
3. Exclamation marks to show anger, shock and surprise
4. 'Wait and see' dots...
5. Speech marks

The lion's paw

This is a story about a Roman slave called Androcles.
His master treated him so badly that, one day,
he ran away.

Androcles needed a place to sleep.
So when he saw a cave,
dug out of the hillside,
he crawled inside.



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As Androcles lay resting, he saw
a pile of bones on the floor.
Then he saw a long, golden hair. A lion's hair!
The cave was a lion's den!

Before he could run away,
a shadow fell across the floor.
The lion was back!





*The lion opened his mighty jaws,
Gnashing his teeth and flashing
his claws,
And then he stretched out on the
dusty floor.
Looked up at Androcles, held out
his paw ...*

"Poor beast," said Androcles.

For a sharp thorn was stuck deep in the lion's paw.

He took the sore paw in his hands, and pulled the thorn until it came out. The lion yawned, and was soon snoring peacefully.

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The lion woke at dawn and went hunting.

Soon, Androcles was feasting on fresh, raw meat,
and the lion was gnawing the bones.

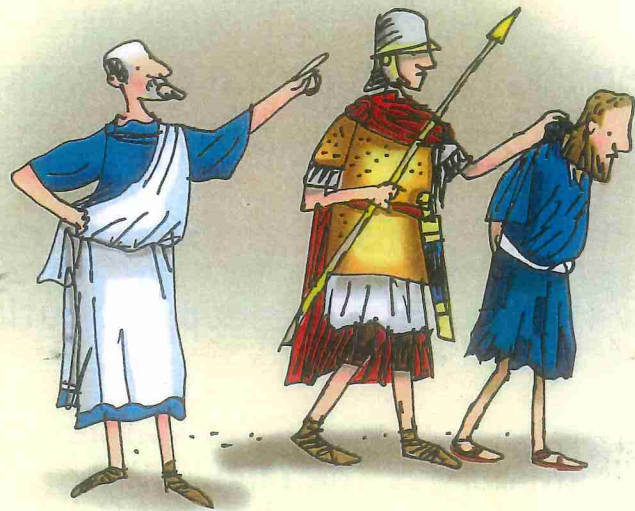
Androcles and the lion lived happily in the cave for many months.



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But Androcles was a man, not a lion,
and he needed to be with other men.
He shook the lion by the paw,
and set off back to Rome.

But his wicked master saw him.
"You have broken the law,"
he shouted scornfully,
"and you must be punished!"

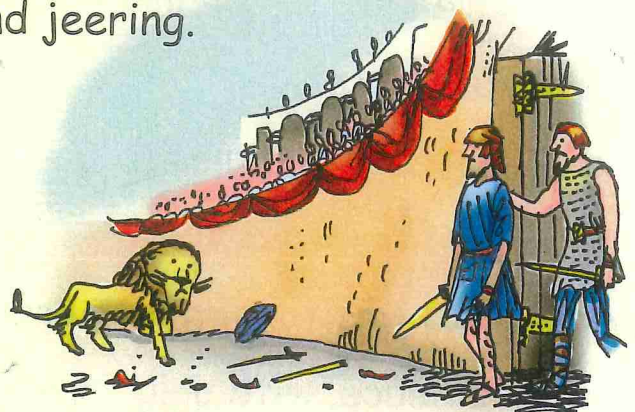


Androcles was thrown into prison -
an awful place, with only straw to sleep on and slops to eat.

The next morning, the guard spoke to Androcles.
"You are going to be thrown to the lions," he said.

Androcles was given a sword and a helmet,
and pushed through a huge wooden door.
He found himself in a sort of circus ring,
with thousands of people shouting and jeering.

Then, across the ring,
he saw the lion - huge, growling and
angry.



A strange thing happened next.

*The lion opened his mighty jaws,
Gnashing his teeth, and flashing his claws,
And then he stretched out on the dusty floor,
Looked up at Androcles, held out his paw.*

It was the lion from the cave!



Androcles took the paw, and kissed it. There were loud cheers from the people. They had never seen a man kissing a lion's paw before! They began to chant: "Set them free! Set them free!"

Androcles and the loyal lion were freed, and lived together for ever more.