

### **Grade 3: Unit 4, Week 4** Getting Involved

Read Aloud: **The Lion and the Hare**

A Fable of Bidpai retold by Maude Barrows Dutton

Wonderful Words: *flatter, bitterly, tormented, seize, indignant*

#### **The Lion and the Hare**

In the neighborhood of Baghdad there was a beautiful meadow, which was the home of many wild animals. They would have lived very happily there had it not been for one mischief-loving lion. Every day this lion wandered about, killing many helpless creatures for the mere sport of slaying.

To put an end to this, the other animals gathered in a group, and going to the lion, spoke to him in this manner: “King lion, we are proud to have such a brave and valiant beast to rule over us. But we do not think that it is fitting for you to hunt for your own food. We therefore present you with this request: If you remain quietly at home, we, your subjects, will bring to your lair such food that is fit for a king.”

The lion, who was greatly flattered, immediately accepted their offer. Thus every day the animals drew lots to decide who among their number should offer himself for the lion’s daily meal. In due time it came about that the lot fell upon the hare. Now the hare, when he learned that it was his turn to die, complained bitterly.

“Do you not see that we are still tormented by that lion?” he asked the other animals. “Leave it to me, and I will release you for all time from his power.”

The other animals were only too glad at these words, and told the hare to go his way. The hare hid for some time in the bushes, and then hurried to the lion’s lair. By this

time the lion was as angry as he was hungry. He was snarling, and lashing his yellow tail on the ground.

When he saw the hare, he called out loudly, “Who are you and what are my subjects doing? I have had no morsel of food today!”

The hare begged the lion to calm his anger and listen to him. “The lot fell today,” he began, “on another hare and me. In good season we were on our way here to offer ourselves for your dinner, when a lion sprang out of the bushes and seized my companion. I cried to him that we were destined for the king’s table, and, moreover, that no one was permitted to hunt in these royal woods except your majesty. He paid no attention to my words except to reply, ‘You do not know what you are saying. I am the only king here. That other lion, to whom you all bow down, is an impostor.’ Dumb with fright, I jumped into the nearest bush.”

The lion grew more and more indignant as he listened to the hare’s tale.

“If I could find that lion,” he roared, “I would soon teach him who is king of these woods.”

“If your majesty will trust me,” answered the hare, humbly, “I can take you to his hiding place.”

So the hare and the lion went out together. They crossed the woods and the meadow, and came to an old well, which was full of clear, deep water.

“Over there is the home of your enemy,” whispered the hare, pointing to the well. “If you go near enough, you can see him. But,” he added, “perhaps you had better wait until he comes out before you attack him.”

These words only made the lion more indignant. “He shall not live a moment after I have laid eyes upon him,” he growled.

So the hare and the lion approached the well. As they bent over the edge and looked down into the clear water, they saw themselves reflected there. The lion, thinking that it was the other lion with the other hare, leaped into the well, never to come out again.

### **flatter**

**Define:** To **flatter** is to praise too much.

**Example:** The singer was **flattered** by the amount of applause she received.

**Ask:** When would you **flatter** someone to get what you want?

### **bitterly**

**Define:** **Bitterly** means something is done with great sadness.

**Example:** Lisa wept **bitterly** because she did not get the part in the school play.

**Ask:** What is the difference between complaining and complaining **bitterly**?

### **torment**

**Define:** To **torment** is to cause pain or suffering.

**Example:** The mayor was **tormented** by his decision to cut school funds.

**Ask:** If you were **tormented** by something, would you be happy or sad? Why?

### **seize**

**Define:** To **seize** something is to grab it.

**Example:** The little dog ran after the bouncing ball and **seized** it in midair.

**Ask:** Why would you not want to **seize** a hot potato?

### **indignant**

**Define:** When a person is **indignant**, he or she is angry about something that is unfair or wrong.

**Example:** Shelly was **indignant** because she was not chosen to be the pitcher for the softball team.

**Ask:** When have you been **indignant** because you thought something was unfair?