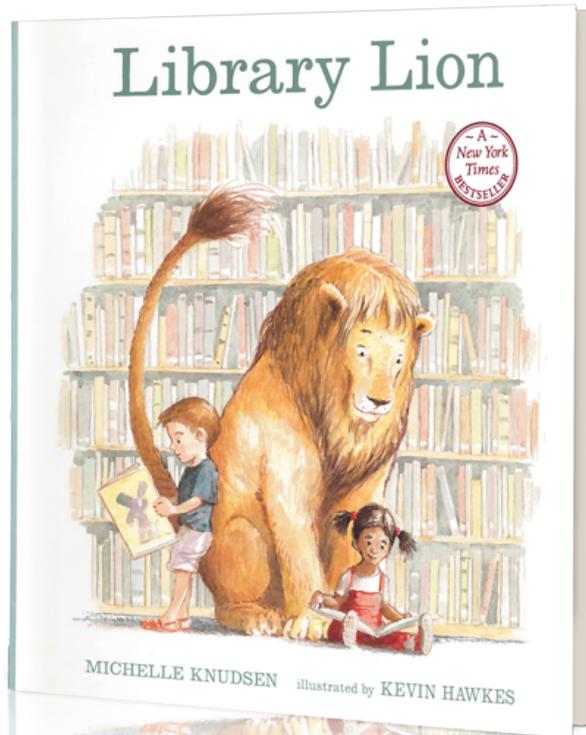


SAG FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Storyline online



LIBRARY LION

Written by: Michelle Knudsen

Illustrated by: Kevin Hawkes

Watch online video of actor
Mindy Sterling
reading this story at
storylineonline.net



BOOK SUMMARY

A heartwarming story about friendship and acceptance and why it is sometimes okay to break the rules.

Miss Merriweather, the head librarian, is very particular about library rules. No running, and you must be quiet. One day a lion walks into the library, and at first, nobody knows what to do because there are no rules about lions in the library. But before long, the lion learns to follow the established rules. He becomes a regular visitor, helping the children and assisting Miss Merriweather with her daily tasks . . . until one day, something terrible happens, and the lion helps in the only way he knows how.

DISCUSSION POINTS

BEFORE READING

- Elicit prior knowledge. Ask children what they know about libraries, lions, etc.
- Look at the cover together. Read the title. Ask children to predict what they think the story might be about. Does the title give them a clue? Does the picture?

AFTER READING

- Draw attention to the illustrations, how they can help the children understand the flow, moods, and feelings in the story. Pay close attention to facial expressions, movement, color, perspective of characters, and size of print.
- Look closely at the last page illustration and ask the children what they notice about the lion statue on the left. And look in the window . . .
- Point out use of language by the author to create mood and indicate feelings of characters.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Where do you think the lion came from? Where do you think he goes every night?
- Why did you think he chose to visit a library?
- How did the people react to the lion when he first came in? Why? How can you tell?
- Did the people change their minds about the lion over time? How do you know?
- Why do you think he chose to visit a library?

- Who is Mr. McBee? What is his job?
- How did Mr. McBee feel about the lion at first? Did he change his mind over time? Why?
- Who is Miss Merriweather? What is her job? What does a librarian do?
- How did Miss Merriweather feel about the lion? How do you know?
- Why did the lion roar at the end of story hour that first day? What was he trying to say? Who understood him? How do you know?
- Why did Miss Merriweather let the lion return the next day?
- What did the lion do when he came back? Why do you think he came back early, before story hour?
- Why was the lion “well suited” for the library? How did he contribute to the library community?
- How do you think the lion felt about Miss Merriweather? The children? Mr. McBee? The library?
- What was the relationship between Mr. McBee and Miss Merriweather? Did it change? If so, how? When?
- How did the children feel about the lion?

EXTENDING DISCUSSION BEYOND THE STORY

- What is the purpose of a rule? What does it mean to follow the rules? Is it important to have rules? Why/why not?
- How do you make rules? Who makes the rules? Do you have rules in your classroom? At home?
- How do you know if a rule works or is fair?
- Have you ever broken a rule? Why? What happened? What were the consequences? How did you feel about it?
- When should rules be broken?
- Would you break a rule to help someone? If so, for whom?

ACTIVITIES

READING/WRITING/LISTENING/SPEAKING

The lion enjoys story hour at the library. What kinds of stories do you think he likes? Look in your classroom library and make a list of 5 books you think he might like to hear.

Retell the story to a friend, using the book's illustrations to help you.

Retell the story to a friend from the lion's point of view, starting with "One day I walked into the library." What might the lion say next?

Create a class story from the first line: "One day a lion came to our classroom." Teacher charts.

DRAMATICS

Pick a partner(s). **1.** Take turns pretending to be the library lion and Mr. McBee. Act out the part of the story when the lion roars, trying to get Mr. McBee's attention to help Miss Merriweather. **2.** Take turns being the lion, Miss Merriweather, and the little girl. Act out the part of the story when the lion roars after story time is over. **3.** Pretend you are the library lion entering the library the first day. Everyone take turns walking on all fours, imagining how he felt and walked.

ART

Recall how helpful the lion was in the library, all the tasks he performed. Ask the children to imagine all the ways the library lion could be helpful if he visited their classroom/school. Entertain and encourage all fantastical ideas. Chart. Then ask each child to choose one idea and illustrate it on a single piece of paper. Provide art supplies of your choice. Pastels and watercolors lend themselves nicely to Kevin Hawkes's artwork. Create a class book entitled *If Library Lion Came to* ___ or *When Library Lion Came to* ___.

Create a lion statue from clay/Play-Doh like the one in the illustration of the front steps of the library.

Create simple lion puppets by gluing brown/yellow yarn, representing a lion's mane, to old socks donated by parents. Use the puppets for retelling.

Look at the title page illustration in the book. Try to build the library entrance in the block area. When done, place clay/Play-Doh statues on it.

THEMES AND CONCEPTS IN THIS BOOK

- Acceptance
- Friendship
- Library/Books
- Rules/Citizenship

BOOKS LIKE THIS ONE

FICTION

Beatrice Doesn't Want To by Laura Numeroff

Bats at the Library by Brian Lies

Book! Book! Book! by Deborah Bruss

Can You Guess Where We're Going? By Elvira Woodruff

Carlo and the Really Nice Librarian by Jessica Spanyol

The Happy Lion by Louise Fatio

Henry & the Buccaneer Bunnies by Carolyn Crimi

If I Were a Lion by Sarah Weeks

A Library Book for Bear by Bonny Becker

Library Lil by Suzanne Williams

Library Mouse by Daniel Kirk (series)

The Midnight Library by Kazuno Kohara

Nanta's Lion by Suse MacDonald

Return of the Library Dragon by Carmen Agra Deedy

Waiting for the Biblioburro by Monica Brown

NON-FICTION

Eye on the Wild: Lion by Suzi Eszterhas

Guess Who Roars by Sharon Gordon

The Life Cycle of a Lion by Bobbie Kalman

Lion by Suzi Eszterhas

INTERNET RESOURCES

Everything you want to know about libraries (*excellent site to share with parents*)

www.atyourlibrary.org

Read-alouds about Rules

www.responsiveclassroom.org/blog/read-alouds-rule-creation

Various lion activities

www.activityvillage.co.uk/lions

Info about the library lion sculptures at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, NYC

www.nypl.org/help/about-nypl/library-lions

Between the Lions TV show

<http://pbskids.org/lions>

Excellent activity/idea kit for Library Lion

www.candlewick.com/book_files/0763622621.kit.1.pdf

Off the Shelf - Library Lion

www.offtheshelf.typepad.com/off-the-shelf/2013/02/library-lion.html

VIDEO LINKS

www.iptv.org/kids/story.cfm/video/arur_20110524_arthur_loves_library/video

www.cybersleuth-kids.com/sleuth/Science/Animals/Mammals/Lions/

www.arkive.org/lion/panther-leo/video-00.html

www.panthera.org/node/2949

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michelle Knudsen

www.michelleknudsen.com/

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kevin Hawkes

www.kevinhawkes.com/

ABOUT THE READER

Mindy Sterling

www.imdb.com/name/nm0827565/

ABOUT STORYLINE ONLINE

The SAG Foundation's children's literacy website Storyline Online streams imaginatively produced videos featuring celebrated actors to help inspire a love of reading. Storyline Online receives millions of views every month in hundreds of countries. Visit Storyline Online at storylineonline.net.

ABOUT THE SCREEN ACTORS GUILD FOUNDATION

The Screen Actors Guild Foundation provides vital assistance and educational programming to the professionals of SAG-AFTRA while serving the public at large through its signature children's literacy programs. Founded in 1985, the SAG Foundation is a national non-profit organization, independent from SAG-AFTRA, and relies solely on support from grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual contributions to maintain our programs and create new ones. For more information, visit sagfoundation.org.

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