

The Clever Fox



King Lion was ill. He was too ill to hunt for his food. He lay in his den and groaned. A bird heard him. It flew to the other animals and told them what it had heard.

All the animals felt sorry for King Lion. They said, "We must take food to our king." Each of them found food for Lion. One by one, they went to his den. As they went into the cave, King Lion killed and ate them.

One day, Fox was passing the cave. He called out, "I hope you are feeling better, your majesty." "I am still ill," moaned Lion. "Have you brought your king some food?" "Yes," said Fox, "but I have noticed something strange that I do not like." "What is that?" asked Lion. "There are many footprints outside your cave," said Fox. "Yes," said Lion. "They were made by loyal subjects bringing food to their king." "Indeed," said Fox, "but all the footprints point in one direction, towards your den. I can see none coming out!"

Saying no more, Fox ran back to his lair as fast as he could.

Question Time

A

1. Which animal was ill?
2. How did the other animals know that King Lion was ill?
3. What did the animals bring to King Lion?
4. What happened to the animals as they went into King Lion's den?
5. What did Fox notice outside King Lion's cave?
6. Who made the footprints outside King Lion's cave?
7. What did Fox do at the end of the story?



B

1. Why did the animals feel sorry for King Lion?
2. Do you feel sorry for King Lion? Why?
3. Why did Fox say "your majesty" when he was talking to King Lion?
4. Which animal in the story was the cleverest? Why?
5. Was King Lion really ill? How do you know?
6. Find the word in the story that means

(a) sick; in bad health

(c) a lion's home

(b) can be trusted; faithful

(d) those ruled by a king or queen

7. Match each of the following animals to its home:

beaver

horse

pig

hare

dog

badger

form

sty

stable

sett

lodge

kennel

8. Match each male animal with the correct female animal.

lion

fox

gander

bull

ram

stallion

vixen

lioness

goose

ewe

cow

mare

Think and Talk

1. Have you ever pretended to be ill?
2. Why did you pretend?
3. Did your parents believe you?
4. Were your parents angry when they found out?