

Library Lion

A STORY HOUR GUIDE & EVENT KIT



MICHELLE KNUDSEN illustrated by KEVIN HAWKES

One day, a lion came to the library. . . . So begins this gentle story of friendship and acceptance. A wonderful introduction for children to the library, it combines the fascination all children have for majestic wild animals with the everyday world of a familiar place in their community. This story will be enjoyed by children in both preschool and primary grades.

INTRODUCTION

FOR PRESCHOOLERS

For young children, you may want to start with this settling-down activity:

The lion comes creeping.

(walk fingers of right hand up left arm)

Shhhh! *(index finger to lips)*

The lion comes creeping.

(walk finger of left hand up right arm)

Shhhh! *(index finger to lips)*

He doesn't make a sound as his paws touch the ground.

(with fists pointed down, make walking motion with hands)

The lion comes creeping. *(walk fingers up arm)*

Shhhh! *(index finger to lips)*

FOR PRIMARY GRADES

Begin your reading of *Library Lion* by asking the children to predict what might happen in the story based on the front endpapers.

- Where do they think the lion is going?
- What is the cat thinking?
- What is the squirrel thinking?
- What other details do they see in the picture?

READ THE STORY

Before reading, ask the children to roar along with the lion when he roars.

RA AAHHHRRR!

When you've finished the story, show them the back endpapers and ask them to find the lion in the picture. They may immediately point out the lion statues, but tell them to look closer to find the real lion.

POST-READING ACTIVITY

After reading the story, look back over the pictures and invite the children to comment on what they notice. Questions you might ask include:

- How does the lion feel when he is able to help around the library?
- How does he feel when Mr. McBee tells him he is breaking the rules?
- How does the lion feel when Miss Merriweather tells him to leave?
- How does Miss Merriweather feel when the lion stays away?
- Why does Mr. McBee go looking for him?
- How does everyone feel when the lion returns?
- What do you see in the pictures to help you understand their feelings?





PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY: LION HUNT

REFRAIN:

We're going on a lion hunt. *(march in place)*

We're not afraid. *(shake head from side to side)*

Going to find a lion. *(make roaring sound)*

Going through the long grass: swish–swash, swish–swash.
(rub palms together)

[REPEAT REFRAIN]

Going across a lake: splish–splash, splish–splash.
(make swimming motion with arms)

[REPEAT REFRAIN]

Going through a swamp: squish–squash, squish–squash.
(lift fingers and feet as if they have been stuck in mud)

[REPEAT REFRAIN]

Coming to a big, dark cave.
(hand to forehead in searching motion)

Tiptoe softly. *(lift toes off floor, quiet voices)*

What's that? Wet, shiny nose? Big, shaggy mane?
Huge furry paws?

It's a lion!! *(shouting, hands in the air)*

Back through the cave: tiptoe, tiptoe.
(lift toes off floor, quiet voices)

Back through the swamp: squish–squash, squish–squash.
(lift fingers and feet as if they have been stuck in mud)

Back through the lake: splish–splash, splish–splash.
(make swimming motion with arms)

Back through the long grass: swish–swash, swish–swash.
(rub palms together)

All the way home—shut the door! *(clap hands together)*

We went on a lion hunt. *(march in place)*

We weren't afraid. *(shake head)*

We found a lion. *(make roaring sound)*

And we left him right there!

(Based on We're Going on a Lion Hunt by David Axtell. Henry Holt and Company, 2000.)

LION CRAFTS

PAPER PLATE LION

Materials:

Plain white paper plates,
yellow construction paper,
yellow and brown yarn,
glue sticks, crayons or markers



Give each child a paper plate to use as the lion's head. Have them cut out yellow circles for ears and glue them to the plate. Next have them glue on yarn for their lion's mane. Then invite them to draw happy lion faces, angry lion faces, or sad lion faces depending on which part of *Library Lion* they would like to illustrate. Children may also attach flat sticks to the back of the plates, cut out the lion's eyes, and use their lion faces as masks.

LION FINGER PUPPET

You could also make paper lion finger puppets with this pattern:

<http://www.free-printables.com/animals/lionfingerpuppet.shtml>



*Sometimes there was a good reason
to break the rules. Even in the library.*

A FINAL STORY

Read one of the following stories to complete your program on *Library Lion*.

Laura Numeroff. *Beatrice Doesn't Want To*.

Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger.

A humorous story about a stubborn little girl, a patient older brother, and the magical workings of the local library (ages 3–5). ISBN-10: 0-7636-1160-3, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-1160-6

Jessica Spanyol. *Carlo and the Really Nice Librarian*.

In a simple storybook adventure, curious Carlo the giraffe discovers the joys of the library with the help of a gentle (if toothy) librarian (ages 2–5). ISBN-10: 0-7636-2526-4, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-2526-9

Carolyn Crimi. *Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies*.

Illustrated by John Manders.

Step aboard, buccaneers and book lovers! Comically dramatic illustrations set the tone for this humorous, hare-raising adventure on the high seas (ages 4–8). ISBN-10: 0-7636-2449-7, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-2449-1

Anita Jeram. *I Love My Little Storybook*.

Celebrate the joy of reading—and savor the art of the award-winning Anita Jeram at her best (ages 2–5).

ISBN-10: 0-7636-1698-2, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-1698-4



Lucy Cousins. *Maisy Goes to the Library*.

Maisy's plan to have a quiet read is put to the challenge by her giggling friends in this ode to the pleasures of the local library (ages 2–5). ISBN-10: 0-7636-2669-4, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-2669-3

Amy Hest. *Mr. George Baker*. Illustrated by Jon J Muth.

With subtlety and tenderness, Amy Hest tells the tale of an elderly man and a young boy linked by the common pursuit of learning to read (ages 5–8). ISBN-10: 0-7636-1233-2, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-1233-7

Anthony Browne. *Super Sturdy Picture Book: I Like Books*.

Who better than Anthony Browne—and one of his most personable chimps—to celebrate all the fun to be found in the world of books (ages 1–3)? ISBN-10: 0-7636-2162-5, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-2162-9



Library Lion

by Michelle Knudsen

illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

Picture Book

Ages 4–7 • Preschool–Grade 2

ISBN-10: 0-7636-2262-1

ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-2262-6

