

Children's Corner - A Fairy Tale About The Four Strongest Animals

Once upon a time the lion, who was the king of the forest, called all the animals together for a meeting. When the meeting was almost over, King Lion said "There are no four animals in the forest as strong as the lion, the elephant, the bear and the tiger. We four animals have decided that the rest of you animals will bring us food. If you don't obey us, we will hang you from the tallest tree in the forest with this rope." Whereupon, King Lion showed to all the animals a big strong rope. King Lion had no sooner finished his speech when the wolf, the alligator, the deer and the snake jumped up and said: "We four are stronger than you four, you four will bring food for us." Immediately there was a great battle. The Lion broke the wolf's back with a slash of his paw. The elephant killed the alligator by throwing him on a pile of rocks. The bear broke off the deer's head before you could say "you poor dear!" And the tiger swallowed the snake from its head down to its tail. Then the lion said: "We four animals, the lion, the tiger, the elephant and the Bear are still the strongest - the rest of you animals bring us food or get hanged." All the other animals left the meeting full of fear and trembling in their paws. The next day all the animals of the forest brought food to the lion, tiger, elephant and bear. That is all brought food except the dog who had forgotten. When the lion found out that the dog had not brought food, he was very angry. He was so angry in fact that he had the dog hung by the rope from the tallest tree in the forest that very same day. For many days thereafter, the animals of the forest brought food for the lion, tiger, elephant and bear. But every day the animals who brought food got more unhappy - the food was getting harder and harder to find, but the appetites of the four strongest animals was getting bigger and bigger. One day the rabbit was talking to the squirrel and he asked him what they should do. The squirrel didn't know, but they decided to go and talk to the fox who was the smartest animal in all the forest. After thinking a long time, the fox figured out a plan. The next day, early in the morning, all the food gathering animals met for a meeting. The fox announced that he had a plan that would make the four strongest animals get their own food. All the animals listened, and when the fox said that he needed the help of the skunk, the woodtick, the mouse and the bee, all these animals agreed to help. Then they all went to where the lion was without bringing any food. When the lion saw that they had not brought any food, he was furious. Then the fox said to the lion: there are four animals from us who are stronger than the lion, tiger, elephant and bear. "Well who are they?" roared the lion, "We will kill them and eat them." Suddenly the bee flew forward and started stinging the bear on his nose. And the mouse ran up into the elephant's trunk and began to tickle. And the woodtick flew on the tiger's back and began to bite. And the skunk backed up to the lion and began to spray. Then the fox said to the bear: "Who is stronger than you" and the bear said "The bee is stronger than me." And before the fox could ask the other 3 animals, they had confessed that the mouse, the woodtick and the skunk were stronger than them. And ever since that day, the lion, tiger, elephant and bear have had to gather their own food just as the skunk, woodtick, mouse and bee have always had to.

Life's Mirror - Madeline S. Bridges

There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave,
There are souls that are pure and true;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.

Give love, and love to your life will flow
A strength in your utmost need,
Have faith, and a score of hearts will show
Their faith in your word and deed.

Give truth and your gift will be paid in kind,
And honour will honour meet,
And a smile that is sweet will surely find
A smile that is just as sweet.

For life is a mirror of king and slave,
It's just what we are and do.
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.

Dedicated to "Teenager" by the Editors, for your words that tugged at our hearts.
May you have rainboys as long as you live!

Eds.