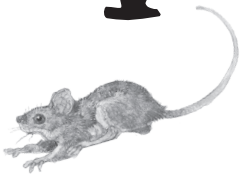


THE LION & THE MOUSE



by Jerry Pinkney

Curriculum connections

- ❖ Fables
- ❖ Art
- ❖ Mathematics
- ❖ Nature

Thematic connections

- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Families

Ages 3 - 6



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is unusual about the front cover of this book? Ask your students to follow the lion's gaze. What is he looking at? What could he be thinking about? Flip to the back cover and ask the same questions about the mouse.
2. The lion could have easily crushed the mouse when they first met. Instead, he lets go of the little creature. Why?
3. Two men set a trap for the lion. Why? What do your students think they will do with him?
4. Why does the mouse help the lion?
5. Why does the mouse keep a rope knot?
6. There are many fine conventional retellings of this fable, including one in Jerry Pinkney's *Aesop's Fables*. Read one of them aloud to your class. What are the similarities your students find in the two versions? Beyond the written text, what are the differences they find?
7. How does a little mouse keep from being overwhelmed by a big lion? Encourage your students to pay close attention to how each creature is depicted in this book. What different points of view does Jerry Pinkney employ? Ask your students to imagine that they were photographing each creature. How close would they need to get to the mouse? How far away from the lion?
8. Being small can be a big advantage. How does the mouse use his tiny size to save the lion? Have your students ever helped older friends or family members? Brainstorm about the ways that small can be powerful.
9. Aesop's fables often feature a moral at the end. What is an appropriate one for *The Lion & the Mouse*?

ACTIVITIES

1. Take a picture book safari. Ask your class to identify and count all the different types of animals pictured in *The Lion & the Mouse*. Encourage your students to search high and low, and not to forget the humans.
2. Make a room for a lion and mouse. How much space does each need? Measure the desks in your classroom. Are they big enough for a mouse? Measure your classroom. Is it large enough for a lion? Measure the footprint of your school building. Could the king of beasts have room enough to roam within it?
3. As a whole class project, research the natural habitat of lions. Where do they live? What do they eat? How much can they weigh? In what ways do humans help lions? In what ways do they hurt them?
4. Jerry Pinkney is the founding father of one of the most illustrious clans in children's literature: his wife is author Gloria Pinkney, his son Myles Pinkney is a photographic artist, his daughters-in-law Sandra Pinkney and Andrea Davis Pinkney are noted authors. Jerry's son Brian Pinkney is himself a Caldecott Honor winning illustrator. Introduce your students to a wide range of Jerry and Brian's books. Can they detect any family resemblances in their work?
5. Stage a performance of *The Lion & the Mouse* in your classroom. There is no conventional dialogue to memorize and plenty of opportunity for young actors to roar, squeak, scratch, and hoot.
6. Create a friendship Hall of Fame. Ask each student to draw a portrait of someone special in his or her life. Post the pictures on a prominent bulletin board.
7. Invite students to write their own text versions of *The Lion & the Mouse* to accompany the illustrations.



about the book



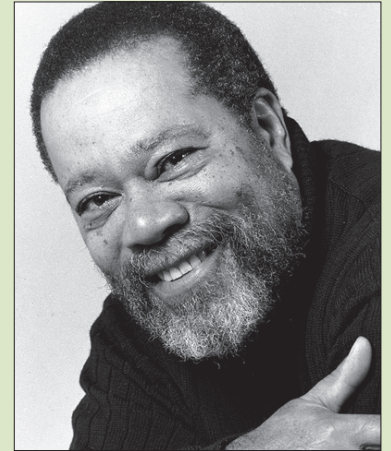
The Lion & the Mouse
By Jerry Pinkney
978-0-316-01356-7

In award-winning artist Jerry Pinkney's wordless adaptation of one of Aesop's most beloved fables, an unlikely pair learn that no act of kindness is ever wasted. After a ferocious lion spares a cowering mouse that he'd planned to eat, the mouse later comes to his rescue, freeing him from a poacher's trap. With vivid depictions of the landscape of the African Serengeti and expressively-drawn characters, Pinkney makes this a truly special retelling, and his stunning pictures speak volumes.

Praise for *The Lion & the Mouse*

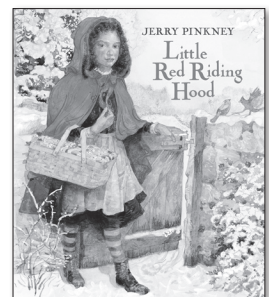
- ★ "Pinkney's soft, multihued strokes make everything in the jungle seem alive, right down to the rocks." *—Booklist*
- ★ "Pinkney has no need for words; his art speaks eloquently for itself." *—PW*
- ★ "Nothing short of masterful." *—Kirkus*
- ★ "A classic tale from a consummate artist." *—SLJ*

About the Artist



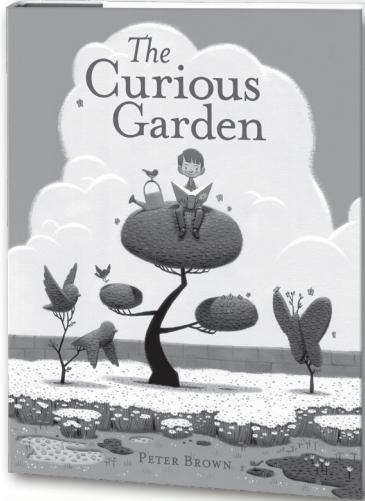
Jerry Pinkney is one of children's literature's most time-honored artists. He has been illustrating children's books for over 40 years and has more than 75 books to his credit. He has been a Caldecott Honor Award recipient and he has also won the Coretta Scott King Award five times, the Coretta Scott King Honor three times, and was nominated for the prestigious international Hans Christian Anderson Award.

also by
Jerry Pinkney



Little Red Riding Hood
978-0-316-01355-0 (HC)

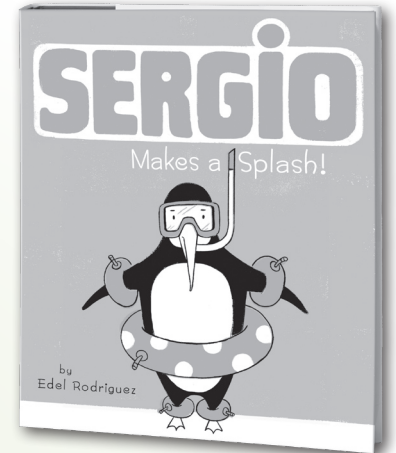
Also from Little, Brown Books for Young Readers



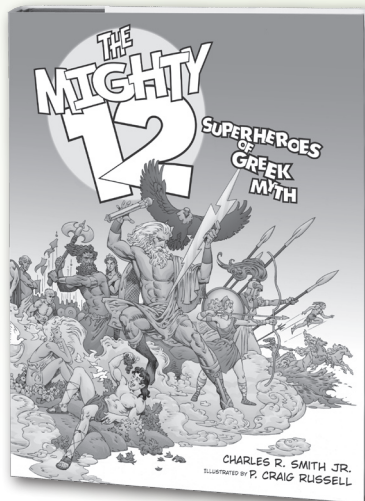
The Curious Garden
By Peter Brown
978-0-316-01547-9 (HC)



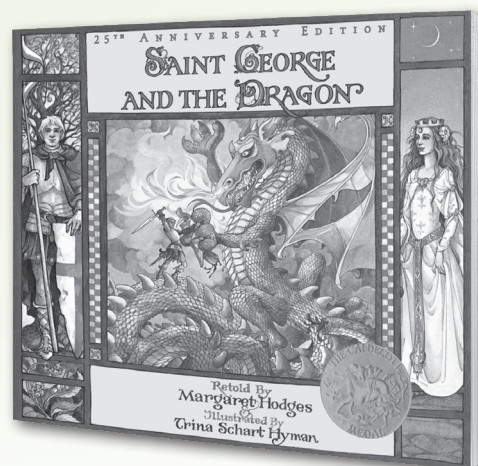
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978-0-316-02777-9 (HC)



Sergio Makes a Splash!
By Edel Rodriguez
978-0-316-06616-7 (HC)



*The Mighty Twelve:
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Written by Charles R. Smith Jr.
Illustrated by P. Craig Russell
978-0-316-01043-6 (HC)



St. George and the Dragon
Retold by Margaret Hodges
Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman
978-0-316-36795-0 (PB)



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Educator's Guide prepared by Anne Quirk.