

# Two Stories of Allies and Ogres by Aesop



In a small group you will read the two stories and identify an ally and an ogre. You will discuss with your group what help or harm was caused and complete the chart on the following page. Remember, as you read, that sometimes an ally can appear in an unusual or unexpected form, and may not appear at first to be a helper. The same is true for the ogres who may sometimes disguise themselves or pretend to be friends, when actually they are not.

## The Lion and the Mouse



Once when a Lion was asleep a little Mouse began running up and down upon him. This soon awakened the Lion, who placed his huge paw upon the Mouse and opened his big jaws to swallow him.

“Pardon, O King,” cried the little Mouse, “forgive me this time, I shall never forget it: and I may be able to do you a favor in the future.” The Lion was so taken at the idea of the Mouse being able to help him, that he let him go.

Some time after, the Lion was caught in a trap, and the hunters tied him to a tree. Just then the little Mouse happened to pass by, and seeing the sad plight of the Lion, went up to him and soon gnawed away the ropes that bound the King of the Beasts. “Was I not right?” said the little Mouse.

A Lion lay asleep in the forest, his great head resting on his paws. A timid little Mouse came upon him unexpectedly, and in her fright and haste to get away, ran across the Lion’s nose. Roused from his nap, the Lion laid his huge paw angrily on the tiny creature to kill her.

“Spare me!” begged the poor Mouse. “Please let me go and some day I will surely repay you.”

The Lion was much amused to think that a Mouse

could ever help him. But he was generous and finally let the Mouse go.

Some days later, while stalking his prey in the forest, the Lion was caught in the toils of a hunter’s net. Unable to free himself, he filled the forest with his angry roaring. The Mouse knew the voice and quickly found the Lion struggling in the net. Running to one of the great ropes that bound him, she gnawed it until it parted, and soon the Lion was free.

“You laughed when I said I would repay you,” said the Mouse. “Now you see that even a Mouse can help a Lion.”

## The Fox and the Scorpion

Once long ago in the vast lands of the desert there was a great and vast river that had to be crossed for animals to seek food and water elsewhere in the desert. As it was on this day Fox had come to the point where it had to cross the river in its travels. As it stood contemplating the best way to cross the river safely Fox’s lifelong enemy Scorpion came upon it and began to talk to Fox.

“Fox, as I was walking along the river bank looking for food I noticed a particularly easy place to cross the river where the water is not so deep and not so swift. As it is I would like to cross over myself also but as I am so small it would be impossible. Would you be willing to take me across if I show you this place to cross the river?” asked Scorpion.

"Why should I take you across? How could I possibly trust you will not sting me on the way across as we have been lifelong enemies?" asked Fox.

"Why would I sting you? For if I stung you it would mean you would drown then both of us would die." replied Scorpion.

Fox thought this over for a bit while carefully watching Scorpion with a distrustful eye. Eventually Fox said, "Show me where the place is and I will take you across."

"First place me on your back and then I will show you for otherwise you may jump in and leave me behind once I show you," replied Scorpion.

Fox thought this over for a bit while carefully watching Scorpion with a distrustful eye. Then walked over to Scorpion and allowed him to climb onto its back. Scorpion directed Fox to where the river was neither so deep nor so swift such that it was a safer place to cross over. As Fox was swimming across the river and had reached the middle of the river Fox felt a sharp stinging sensation on its back and realized it had been stung by Scorpion.



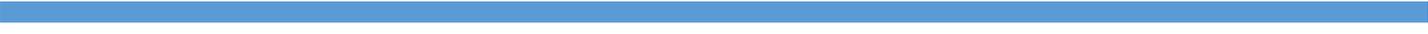
Fox cried out, "How could you sting me; we shall both drown now?"

Scorpion replied, "I couldn't help myself."



Fill in the boxes below with answers (full and complete sentences) based on the stories you just read.

Who was the ally in the story?	How did they help the hero?
Who was the ogre in the story?	How did the ogre harm or interfere with the hero?



# Identifying Allies and Ogres in Your Life

Take some time to think about your life. You have experiences allies and ogres at different times. Read the questions below and answer them honestly.

Who in your life has been an ally? In what ways?

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Did you ever find an ally in someone unexpected? What were the circumstances?

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Who in your life has been an ogre? In what ways?

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Did you ever encounter a “wolf in sheep’s clothing”, someone who pretended to be a friend but really was not? What were the circumstances? How did you figure out the deception?

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