



**Publisher and
Copyright Date:**

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Summary:

This is a retelling of a traditional Somali folktale. A lion and other animals work together to hunt a camel and then decide how to divide it. This is one of four Somali folktales published as bilingual picture books through the Humanities Center's Somali Bilingual Book Project. (Visit www.mnhum.org/somalibooks to learn more.)

Suggested Ages:

4-6, 7-10

Reading Tips:

Show children a globe or world map to point out the country of Somalia.

Read the story all the way through in one language at a time for easier comprehension.

If the reader is not bilingual, use the dual-language audio recording (www.mnhum.org/somalibooks), published by the Humanities Center, to play the story in the additional language.

Before Reading:

This story is from the country Somalia, in Africa. What animals might you find in Somalia? Display a visual of each animal from the story as it is named.

Which animal is the king of the jungle?

What words would you use to describe this animal?

Lions, other animals, and people eat camel meat in Somalia.

If you have a big plate of meat how would you share it with others?

Would you eat it all? Cut it in half? Give everyone a bite? What would be fair?

Introduction:

"This is a story about a group of animals in Somalia that are hunting a camel. Let's see how they decide to share the camel meat..."

After Reading:

How would you describe the lion in this story?

Have you heard the phrase, "the lion's share" before? How was it used?

What could be a different ending for this story?

Related Activities

Art: Make a lion mask (use paper plates, paper strips or yarn, cornstarch or glue). Have the children think about what kind of expression they would like their lion to have.

Dramatization: Give children cutout images of each of the animals in the story. Allow them to play with these characters, recreate this story, or create a new story.

Language: Conduct a scavenger hunt for the phrase “the lion’s share”. Have children look through books, magazines, and other text for uses of this phrase. (Have a number of pre-selected samples available if conducted in class. Or, have students search outside sources.) Discuss whether the use of the phrase is positive or negative.

Compare and contrast this story with a version of the Aesop fable: aesopfables.com/aesopse.html

Math: Have children work in small groups. Give each group a picture of a pizza to share. Have them cut it into fractional pieces ($1/2$, $1/4$, $1/8$, $1/16$). Discuss who will get the larger share.

Science: Learn more about lions in Africa, visit: kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/lion

For older students, visit: cbs.umn.edu/research/labs/lionresearch

Writing: Rewrite the story from the lion’s point of view.

Other: For more ideas on using folktales and fables, visit: edsitement.neh.gov/subject/literature-language-arts, then click *Aesop and Ananse*.

Suggestions for English

Language Learners: Have students summarize the story. Write simple summary sentences on large sentence strips to use for “re-reading” the story.

Invite Somali students to share different versions of this story, or invite parents to come share different versions that they may know.

Related Books

Dhegdheer, A Scary Somali Story* by Marian A. Hassan, illustrated by Betsy Bowen (2007)

The Travels of Igal Shidaad* by Kelly Dupre, illustrated by Amin Amir (2008)

Wiil Waal: A Somali Folktale* by Kathleen Moriarty, illustrated by Amin Amir (2007)

Eating Fractions by Bruce McMillan (1991)

Honey...Honey...Lion! by Jan Brett (2005)

The Lion and the Mouse by Bernadette Watts (2000)

Lions (Our Wild World) by Cherie Winner, illustrated by John F. McGee (2001)

*Also published by the Minnesota Humanities Center.