

Teaching Notes & Resources

Early Years

Themes: Family | Starting school | Growing Up | Empathy

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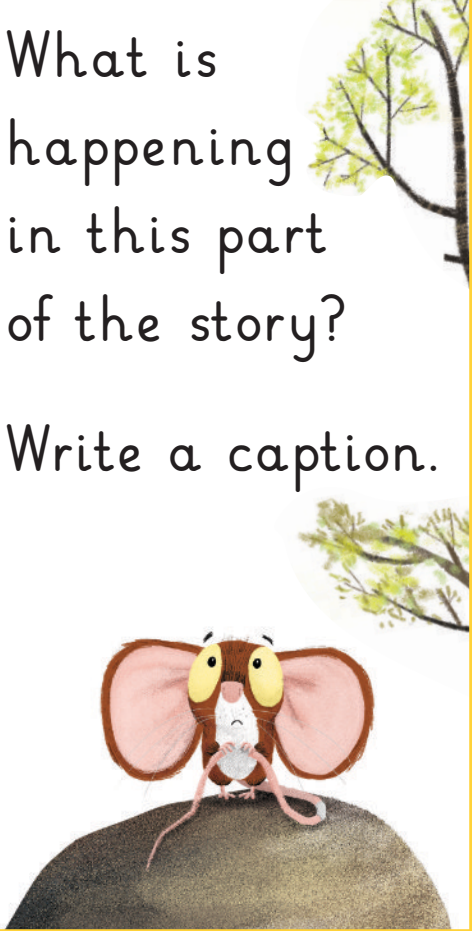
SCAN ME

CAPTION WRITING

THE
LION
INSIDE

What is
happening
in this part
of the story?

Write a caption.



Communication, Language and Literacy

Comprehension

Who are the main characters in the story?

Where do you think the story is set? What clues can we find for this in the story?

How does Mouse feel at the start of the story?

What is Lion like?

What does Mouse decide to do?

How does Lion react when he meets Mouse?

How does Mouse feel at the end of the story?

What has he learned?

Discussion Questions

How does it make you feel when people don't notice you?

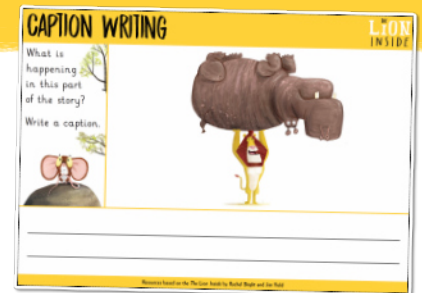
What does the word 'brave' mean?

Do you think you need to be loud to be brave?

Caption Writing

What is happening in this part of the story?

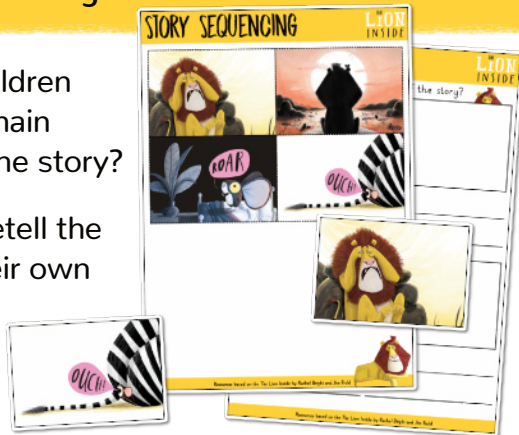
Write a caption.



Story Sequencing

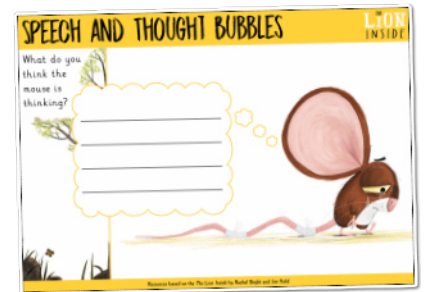
Can the children order the main events of the story?

Can they retell the story in their own words?



Speech and Thought Bubbles

What do you think the mouse is thinking?



Personal Social and Emotional Development

What is special about me?

Mouse wanted to learn how to roar so that he'd make friends and join in, just like Lion. But he soon came to realise that being a mouse is what made him special and he didn't need to try and be like anyone else.

In this activity, children are encouraged to think about what makes them special.

Why did Mouse feel like he needed to change? Did he need to be loud to be noticed? Did he need to change? What was already special about him?



Phonics

Sand mark making

Use sand for children to practise upper and lowercase letter formation.

Can the children correctly say and form each letter. Can they think of any animals from the story of *'The Lion Inside'* that start with that letter/initial sound?

Musical Instruments

Use instruments with the children to make LOUD and quiet sounds to accompany different moments as you read the book. Then think about different instruments you could use to represent each animal e.g. a tiny bell for the mouse, a big drum for the lion, a horn for the elephant, castanets for the impala trotting.

Animal Sounds

Look at a page with lots of animals, such as the one where Lion shows off how strong he is. Make the sounds of some of the animals and ask children to match those sounds to animals in the book: Lion (roar); Mouse (squeak); bird (tweet); trumpet (elephant).

Rhyming words

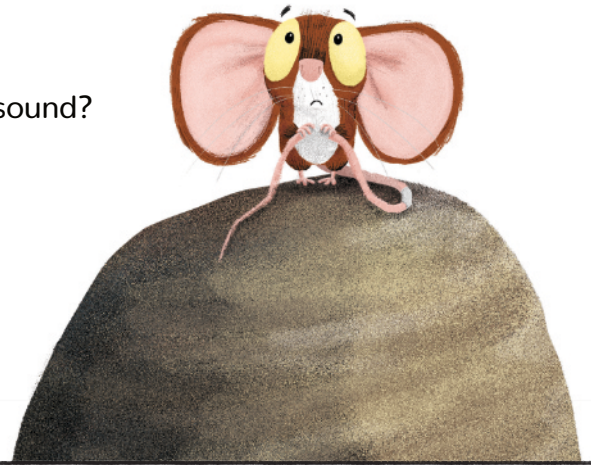
Identify rhyming words in the story and find rhyming pairs. What other words can the children think of that rhyme?

Initial Sound Matching

Can the children match the animals from the story to the initial sound? What other animals do they know? What is their initial sound?

Draw and label

Can the children draw an image of a lion and a mouse and then label the image using phonics knowledge? Head, claws, mane, fur, tail – look for the use of initial sounds and blending sounds. Can they talk to you about what they have written?



Expressive Arts and Design

Colour Mixing

Explore colour mixing with the children to create an African savannah sunset. Provide the children with paper and red and yellow paint. What happens when we mix the 2 colours?

Extend: Use black card for the children to cut out animal shapes and place at the bottom of the picture.

Traditional Music

Offer a selection of traditional music from Kenya and neighbouring countries for children to listen to and respond to by dancing or playing instruments.

Understanding the World

Where is Africa?

Can the children find the continent on the map? How big is Africa?

Can the children find where we live on the map? How many times bigger is Africa than the UK? Talk about the different parts of the UK and how it does not all look the same. Look at London, a seaside town, Welsh countryside and other areas. What do they notice that is the same, and what is different? Begin to talk about Africa. Do we think it all looks the same? Address misconceptions that Africa is purely savannahs and wild animals. Where do people live? What jobs do they have? Where do they go to school?

Who Lives with Lion?

What different animals can the children spot in the story? Do you know any other animals that live in Africa? Can the children create an animal spotter sheet for animals in Africa?

You could extend this to look at the word 'endangered' and animals that are endangered in Africa.



Continuous Provision

Sand Play – Animal Footprints

Provide children with sand and different objects they can use to make animal footprints in the sand. Which tool(s) work best? How many legs does each animal have? What would each animals' footprints look like in the sand? Who would have the biggest footprints? Who would have the smallest?

African Animals Small World

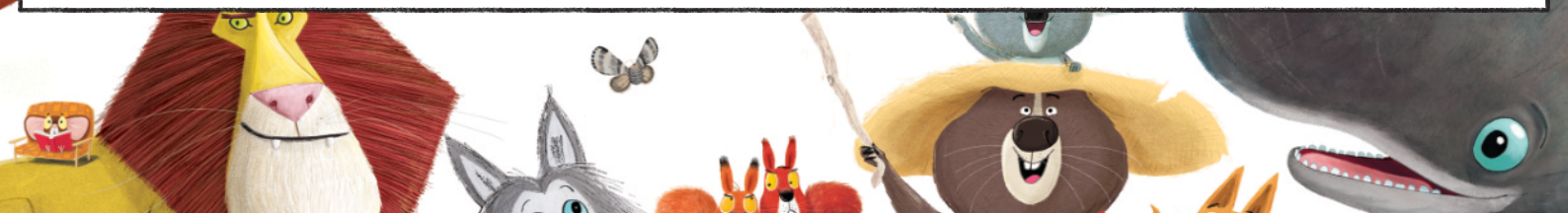
Provide the children with sand or an African savannah photo backdrop and African animal toys or photo cut-outs. Allow the children to explore the small world. You could set up a problem-solving scenario such as the lion cannot cross the river to reach the rocks. Listen for story language repeated by the children.

African Safari Role-Play

Provide the children with African animal masks. Encourage them to interact with each other. Are they able to take on the role of that animal? Do they repeat any story language?

African Animals Non-Fiction Book

Provide photos of African animals that are featured in the book and simple writing frames. Can the children write about the animal? Can they label the photograph? Pull all the writing templates together to create a class non-fiction book about African animals.



WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL?

THE
LION
INSIDE



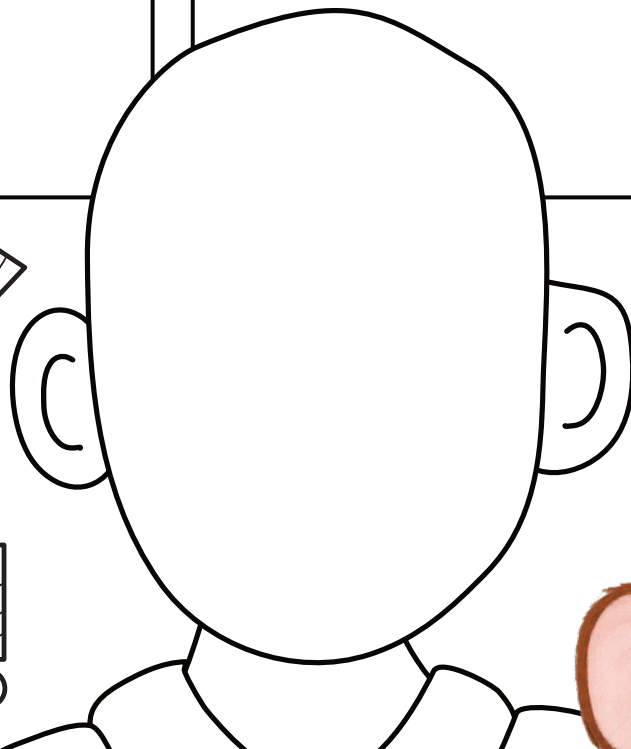
WHAT MAKES ME

Special?

I love my...

I am great at...

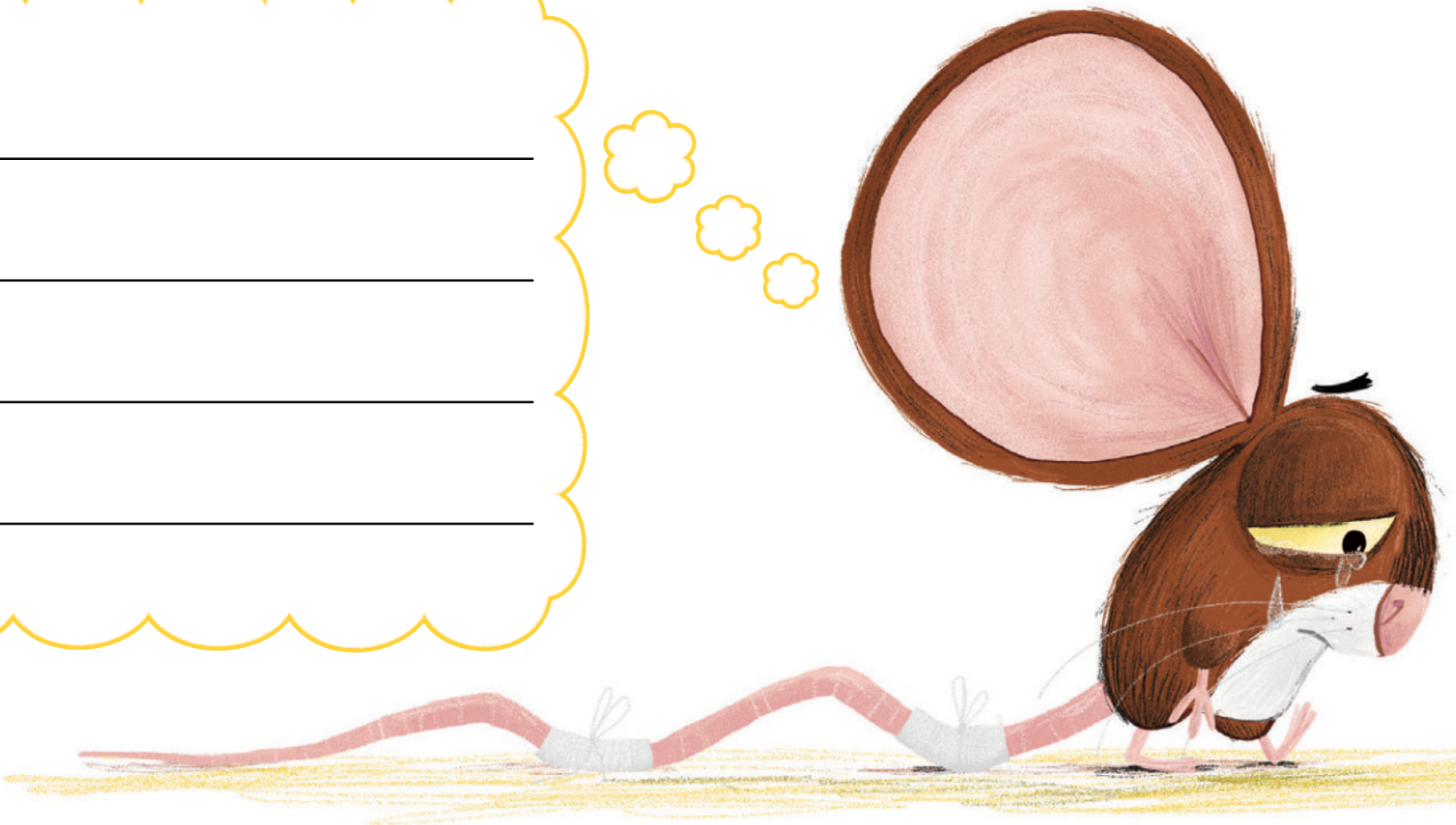
This
is me!



I am proud of my...

I am a good friend because...

What do you think the mouse is thinking?



STORY SEQUENCING

Can you order the main events of the story?



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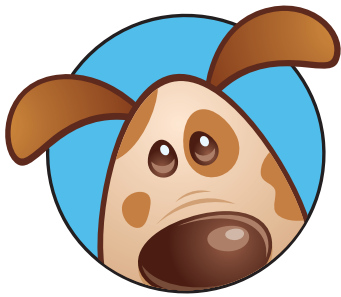
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STORY SEQUENCING

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