

The Fox and the Horse

by the Brothers Grimm

Rewritten story

Read the story and answer the following questions.

1. Once there was a horse. He used to be a faithful servant to a farmer, but as he grew older and weaker, he could not work as well as before. His master no longer wanted to give him food and was even determined to drive him away. One day, the farmer said, “You’re no longer useful to me and I won’t keep you. However, if you can prove yourself stronger than a lion and bring one to me, I’ll take you back and let you have enough to eat.” He then chased the horse into the open country. The poor horse felt miserable and depressed. He hung his head very low and wandered up and down in the forest.
2. After a while, he met a fox. “What’s the matter? Why are you looking so miserable wandering in this cold wind and rain?” asked the fox.
3. “Alas,” sighed the horse, “My master has forgotten the work I’ve done for him for so many years. Now that I cannot plough well, he has stopped feeding me and driven me away. He said if I could prove myself stronger than a lion by bringing one to him, he would keep me. What chance can I have of that?” The horse was tearful.
4. The fox offered, “I’ll help you. Just lie down, stretch yourself out stiffly as if you were dead, and do not move.” The horse did as he was told.
5. The fox then went to the lion, who had his cave not too far away. He told the lion, “A large dead horse is lying outside. Come with me and you can eat to your heart’s desire!” The lion was pleased and followed him. When they were standing by the horse, the fox said, “It’s not comfortable for you to start your delicious meal here. There are eagles circling in the sky above. I’ll fasten the horse to you by the tail, and you can drag it to your cave and eat it in peace.” The lion agreed and lay down for the fox to tie the horse to him. But the fox tied the lion’s legs together with the horse’s tail, and twisted and fastened the tail so tightly that the lion could not break loose. The fox then tapped the horse on the shoulder and said, “Pull hard and off you go!” The horse sprang up and dragged the lion after him. The lion was shocked and furious. He roared so loudly that all the birds in the forest flew out in all directions. The horse kept pulling the lion after him over the country until he arrived at his master’s doorstep. The master opened the door and was greatly surprised to see the horse and the lion. He kept his word and let the horse stay and have plenty to eat until he died.

