

# Lion and Warthog



Read  
Aloud

Adapted by Yein Suh



Once upon a time, there lived a lion. Lion was very big and strong. Other animals feared that the lion would catch them and eat them. Lion had nothing to fear because he was the strongest and fiercest animal in the Savannah, a tropical grassland.

Then, early one morning, while Lion was looking for his breakfast, he got caught in a hunter's trap.



Lion gave his loudest roar. He desperately pulled to free himself from the trap. Every time he pulled, the trap got tighter and tighter around his leg. Lion grew tired and he felt more pain in his leg.

Finally, feeling exhausted, he gave up.



Days passed and Lion got hungry and thirsty, but still no other animals passed by to offer help. He became weaker and weaker, and he began to lose hope.

"I am going to die of hunger and thirst in this trap," he moaned to himself.

Then, all of a sudden, he heard a sound.



The sound was coming from the nearby bushes. He listened and looked closer. He saw a herd of warthogs talking and laughing as they passed by.

The warthogs were going to the river to drink water and play in the mud before the sun got too hot.



"Warthog! Please help me!" cried Lion. "Please set me free from this trap," he pleaded.

"Never," said Warthog. "Everyone knows you are the cruelest animal in the Savannah. You will eat me for breakfast if I set you free."

"I promise I would never do such a terrible thing. We will be friends if you can set me free," said Lion.



At first, Warthog was skeptical. He did not trust the lion. But the kindhearted warthog began to feel sorry for Lion. "I do not like seeing you in such pain, thirsty and dying from hunger," he said.

So Warthog pulled at the trap with his long strong tusks and released Lion. Warthog saved his new friend.



"Thank you for saving my life!" exclaimed Lion.

"I must go back to my herd now, good bye," said Warthog.

"Be well, my new friend," said Lion.

Warthog was happy to have Lion as a new friend. "We warthogs will never have to run from Lion again," he thought.





After saying goodbye to Warthog, Lion limped away. He realized he had not eaten for several days, and he was starving. Then he saw the herd of warthogs playing in the mud. The Warthogs looked so delicious to the hungry Lion.

"Today is my lucky day," said Lion, with his mouth watering. He rushed towards the warthogs with his teeth bared.



Warthog could not believe his eyes! He was horrified to see his new friend, Lion, approach his pals.

"Lion, aren't we friends? What are you planning to do?" asked Warthog.

"Listen, Warthog, my new friend. I'm grateful for your help, but I was caught in the trap for days without food. I am too weak to hunt. I have to eat one of your pals for breakfast."

Warthog was shocked. "I saved you from the trap and now you want to eat one of my pals? You promised you would never do such a bad thing!"



"Yes, Warthog, you became my friend because you set me free. So I am not going to eat you. But, my friend, I never promised not to eat other warthogs," the cunning Lion replied. Then Lion opened his mouth and showed his teeth and sharp claws.

"I am starving! I have to eat one of your pals! Now get out of my way," roared Lion.



As Lion showed his huge teeth and sharp claws, Warthog realized that he was wrong to trust a predator. He knew that his pals would not be able to run away from the swift Lion, nor were their tusks a match for Lion's enormous jaws. After thinking to himself, the wise and clever Warthog came up with an idea.

He said to Lion, "All right. I will let you have one of my pals. But first, I want you to show me how you were caught in the trap. I don't understand how such a fierce and clever animal like yourself could fall for such a trick."



The proud Lion felt offended, and he was eager to prove that anyone could have gotten caught in the trap.

“You don’t understand! I am clever enough to avoid most tricks, but this trap was completely hidden,” insisted Lion. Then he went back to the trap, putting his foot inside to show Warthog how he got caught.



"Ouch!" Lion roared. Warthog had closed the trap on Lion's foot.

"Aha! I got you," boasted Warthog. "You should not have deceived me. Poor Lion, you will stay in that trap hungry and thirsty again. See if your huge teeth and sharp claws can help you now!"



"Warthog! How could you betray me? Aren't we friends?" whined Lion.

"I thought we were friends, but you have shown your true colors," Warthog replied.

Lion was in pain from the hunter's trap. "Please help me! I promise I will do anything for you if you save me. I will never eat another warthog again as long as I live!" he cried.

"No way, liar! You cannot fool me again," shouted Warthog. "I will also warn other animals to beware of you."



Warthog saw his herd running in a row to escape from Lion. He rushed to join his pals, and they all escaped safely.

Warthog felt relieved and thought to himself, "There's always a way out if you keep your head on straight. The sly lion underestimated me, because I am smaller and weaker than he is. But sometimes it is more important to be clever than to be strong."





# *Lion and Warthog*

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