



Upper KS1/Lower KS2 (SATS style)
Reading Comprehension Booklet 2



Name.....

Useful words

carnivorous

felines

male/female

savanna

social

affectionate

Lions



Lions are large carnivorous (meat-eating) animals that belong to the family of felines (cats).

1 What does the word **carnivorous** mean?

2 To which family do lions belong?

Tick one.

canines

bovines

felines

equines

Nicknamed "King of the Jungle," the lion possesses both beauty and strength. Lions vary in colour but usually have light yellow-brown coats. Male lions have large manes of darker coloured fur surrounding their heads and necks. This makes it easy for us to tell the difference between males and females.

3 What is the nickname given to lions?

Tick **one**.

Queen of the Jungle

King of the Forest

King of the Jungle

King of the Woods

4 How can we tell the difference between male and female lions?

Even though they are nicknamed "King of the Jungle," lions don't actually live in jungles. Lions mostly live in the grasslands, savanna and open woodlands of Africa but they also live in the Gir Forest in India.

5 Where do lions mostly live?

Unlike other cats, lions are very social animals. They live in groups, called prides, of around 30 lions. A pride consists of up to three males, a dozen females, and their cubs (baby lions).

6 Which words in the text tell you that lions like the company of other lions?

Tick **one**.

young cubs

social animals

other cats

three males

7 What does the word **cub** mean?

Lions eat a lots of different kinds of prey, from wildebeest, impala, zebra, giraffe, buffalo and wild hogs to sometimes rhinos and hippos. They will also feed on smaller animals such as hares, birds and reptiles. Lions are also known to attack elephants when other prey is hard to find.

8 Name two smaller animals that lions feed on.

1.

2.

9

When are lions likely to attack elephants?

Lions are the laziest of the big cats and usually spend 16 to 20 hours a day sleeping and resting. They can be found lying on their backs with their feet up or taking a snooze up in a tree. While lazing around, they are very affectionate towards one another - rubbing heads, grooming, and purring.

10

What do lions spend most of their time doing?

11

What you think the word **affectionate** means?

Useful words

Androcles

trustworthy

deceive

betray

Androcles and the Lion

Once there was a slave called Androcles who belonged to a very cruel master. Androcles worked all day long in his master's fields and was never paid a single penny. He was always tired and hungry and one night Androcles decided to escape.



12

Which word in the text describes what Androcles' master was like?

Tick one.

cruel

tired

hungry

kind

13 Why did Androcles decide to escape?

Silently, Androcles crept into the forest. He knew that if he was caught he'd be punished so he ran all night and in the morning he lay down to rest. He'd just fallen asleep when he was woken by a terrible roaring sound.

14 Why did Androcles creep silently into the forest?

15 What was Androcles woken by?

Androcles jumped to his feet and standing right in front of him was a huge lion. He was about to run away when he noticed the lion was holding out his paw...and...he wasn't really roaring...he was crying because a huge thorn was sticking out of his paw.

16

Why was the lion holding his paw?

"Ouch! No wonder you're crying," said Androcles to the lion. "I'd like to help you but if I come any closer you'll probably eat me."

But the lion had such a sad look in its eye that before Androcles had time to think he'd stepped forward and pulled out the thorn.

The lion opened his mouth and let out a terrible cry...

...and for a moment Androcles thought he was going to be eaten but instead of biting Androcles, the lion gently licked his face.

16

What made Androcles decide to help the lion?

Tick **one**.the sad look in the lion's
eye

the lion's kind face

the lion's fierce roar

the lion's sharp teeth

17

Why did Androcles think the lion might eat him?

Androcles fetched some water from a stream and washed the Lion's bleeding paw.

'You'll be alright now,' said Androcles.

The lion licked Androcles one last time as if to say 'thank you' then limped off into the forest. Then Androcles heard a voice.

'That's him. Quickly...tie him up.'

Androcles knew that voice. It was his master. Six men grabbed Androcles and tied him up with ropes.

"Thought you would escape did you?" said the master. 'Nobody escapes from me.'

Now Androcles was in really big trouble. The men took Androcles to the city and threw him in prison.

18

Where did the lion go after Androcles had helped him?

Tick one.

to the city

to the stream

to the mountains

to the forest

19

How many men grabbed Androcles?

The next day a prison guard brought Androcles some food.

"Do you hear that roaring, Androcles? We haven't fed that lion since we caught him. But he's going to have plenty to eat tomorrow when we put you in his cage."

The next morning Androcles was taken to a huge arena like a football stadium. The Emperor and thousands of his people had come to see Androcles being eaten by a lion.

In the centre of the arena was a cage and in the cage was a huge, very hungry lion.

The crowd clapped and cheered as the guards pushed Androcles into the cage and slammed the door shut.

Everyone went very still as the lion leapt towards Androcles. But then something odd happened. The lion stopped and stood very still. He knew this man. He'd seen him somewhere before. Then he remembered the thorn that had stuck in his paw.

20

Who had come to the stadium to see Androcles being eaten by the lion?

21

Why did the lion stop and stand very still?

"Are you going to eat me then old friend?" said Androcles.

But the lion just purred and licked Androcles' face.

At first the crowd were angry. This wasn't supposed to happen. They hadn't paid good money to see a lion lick a man's face.



But the Emperor stood up and said, "This is the most amazing thing I've ever seen." And he started to clap.

And the people thought, "If the Emperor's clapping then maybe I should clap too."

Soon clapping and cheering rang round the arena. Androcles was taken to the palace and when the Emperor heard the story of the lion and the thorn he announced that both Androcles and the lion should be given their freedom.

"Androcles, you helped the lion so the lion helped you," said the Emperor. "See how one good deed leads to another. You're a free man now."

Androcles and the lion walked out of the city together; both free.

The End

22

What lesson can we learn from this story?
