

Jackal and the Lion (South Africa)

Jackal was a sneaky animal who liked to play tricks on the other animals. He was very bright but not very strong. The other animals tolerated Jackal's tricks because he made them laugh.

One day, Jackal was walking through the South African mountains when he heard a noise. He stopped and listened. The sound was coming from the grassland just beyond the mountains. When Jackal heard a mighty roar, he knew who was hunting him.

There was one animal that all others feared, and that was Lion. Jackal had played a lot of tricks on Lion in the past. Jackal was sure that Lion was out for revenge. He turned around to look for a way to escape. The mountains were too steep behind him. He would never be able to run away quickly enough.

Being very smart, Jackal thought of a plan. Instead of running away, he started to shout for help.

"Help! Help! Help!" he cried. He knew Lion would hear and come to catch him.

Sure enough, Lion came running around the corner and stared at Jackal. "What do you want now?" Lion growled.

"The mountains are falling down," said Jackal. He pointed at a big rock on the floor and said, "That rock just fell down from the sky and nearly hit me."

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Find three words that mean "clever".
2. What does the word "sneaky" tell you about Jackal?
3. What does the word "tolerated" mean?
4. Find a word that tells you how Lion spoke.
5. What do you know about the branch if it is "stout"?

Before Lion could say anything, Jackal pushed him against a heavy rock balancing on the side of the mountain. “Hold this to stop them falling,” he said.

Lion was confused but did as he was told. He leaned back and held the rock up with his shoulders.

“I will go and find a stout branch to hold the mountain back,” said Jackal.

Jackal ran away from the mountains and away from Lion. Nobody knows how long Lion waited there before he realised that Jackal had tricked him once again.



VIPERS QUESTIONS

I

How does Lion feel about Jackal? What give you this impression?

R

Where does the story take place?

S

What was Jackal doing just before he heard Lion?

I

What is the moral of this story?

P

What other tricks might Jackal have played on Lion?

Answers:

1. Bright, smart, intelligent
2. He likes to sneak about and isn't always honest
3. They put up with it
4. Growled
5. It is thick and strong

I: He is frustrated/doesn't like him - Jackal has played lots of tricks on him and he says "What do you want now?"

R: South Africa/South African mountains

S: Walking through the mountains

I: Sometimes is it better to be clever than strong