

1.2 Androcles and the Lion

WARMING UP !

CHIT - CHAT

- (1) Have you ever helped anyone? Why?
- (2) How did you help him/her?
- (3) Has anyone ever helped you in your need?
- (4) How did you feel at that time?
- (5) How did you show your gratitude to him/her?

- (1) Discuss with your benchmate and write down the names of any five stories of bravery that you have read/heard. Also name the brave hero / heroine of each story.

Name of the Story

Name of the Hero / Heroine

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| (a) ..... | ..... |
| (b) ..... | ..... |
| (c) ..... | ..... |
| (d) ..... | ..... |
| (e) ..... | ..... |

- (2) Complete the facts about lions choosing from the alternatives.

- (1) Lions are called of the jungle.
(emperor / lord / king)
- (2) Lions belong to the family of animals.
(dog / cat / horse)
- (3) Lions are animals.
(carnivorous / herbivorous / omnivorous)
- (4) lions have a mane around their neck but lionesses do not have it.
(Cub / Male / Female)
- (5) A group of lions is called a
(flock / herd / pride)
- (6) Lions attack only when they are
(tricked / awake / hungry)

Androcles and the Lion

Long, long ago, there lived a kind, gentle and **courteous** man called Androcles. But he had a very cruel master. In those days, kings, nobles, and other wealthy men used poor people as their slaves. Androcles was a slave. The slaves were forced to work for their masters. They had to do what their masters told them. They had no freedom, no rights. Even when they were unhappy with their master, they could not leave him. They were **bound by law** to obey their master, however wicked he might be.

Androcles did not like his heartless, wicked master. His master starved his slaves and often whipped them. Androcles felt that even death was better than serving such a master. He kept looking out for a good opportunity. At the first chance he got, he escaped from the **clutches** of his cruel master.

Now, although Androcles had thus run away, he was not a **coward**. He took shelter in a forest. He was not afraid of the wild beasts that roamed the forest. He did not mind that he had no roof over his head. He was happy that he was free as a bird to go wherever he wished.

One day, as he was wandering in the forest, he suddenly came face to face with a lion. His first reaction was to turn and **flee**. But then he saw that the lion had not moved on seeing him. It neither growled, nor roared. In fact, it looked at him **piteously** as if it was in great pain.

Androcles paused. Then he moved very **cautiously** towards the lion, step by step. The lion **moaned** and **whimpered**. “Please help me,” its eyes seemed to say.

When Androcles drew near, the lion lowered its head and began to lick its paw. Then Androcles saw that the lion’s paw was wounded, sore and swollen.

On a closer look, Androcles noticed that a big thorn had pierced one of the lion’s toes. ‘So this is the cause of the lion’s **distress**,’ thought Androcles.

Summoning up all the **courage**, Androcles stretched his hand slowly towards the injured paw. He was afraid that the lion would attack him if he touched its swollen paw. But the lion seemed to understand his good **intention**.

• **courteous** : polite

◆ *How were the slaves treated at that time?*

• **bound by law** : strictly forced to follow the laws

• **clutches** : tight hold

◆ *Where did Androcles seek shelter, after his escape?*

• **coward** : one who gets easily afraid

• **flee** : run away, escape

◆ *What did the lion seem to tell Androcles?*

• **piteously** : in a piteous manner

• **cautiously** : very carefully

• **moaned** : made painful sounds

• **whimpered** : cried painfully

◆ *Why was the lion in pain?*

• **distress** : great trouble

• **summoning up courage** : trying to be brave

• **intention** : purpose

- ◆ **deftly** : skilfully and quickly

- ◆ *How did Androcles nurse the lion's wound?*

- ◆ *Where did the soldiers put Androcles and the lion after their capture?*

Androcles took the paw in his left hand. **Deftly**, he pulled out the thorn. Then, tearing a piece of his own clothing, the kind man bound up the lion's injured paw. To his surprise and wonder, the lion then licked his arm, as if to show gratitude.

Androcles remained with the lion till it could walk again. He would hunt in the forest and share his food with the helpless beast. Every day, he would clean and dress the lion's wound. Soon, the lion was able to move about. Many times, it followed Androcles, wherever he went.

In the meanwhile, Androcles' master had complained to the authorities that his slave Androcles had run away. Soldiers were sent in all directions to capture Androcles. They searched for him high and low but couldn't find him. At last, they came to the forest where Androcles lived.

It so happened that Androcles had gone out alone that day while the lion rested near the cave. Both of them fell into the hands of the soldiers. The soldiers took them back to the city. They put Androcles in chains in a prison. The lion was caged.

In those days, people who were found to be guilty of a serious crime were fed to wild beasts, as punishment. Running away from one's master was a very serious crime at that time. Therefore, Androcles, too, was to be thrown to the wild beasts.



On the appointed day, the emperor arrived at the circus and took his place. The crowds cheered loudly. The trumpeters blew the trumpet and Androcles was brought into the **arena**. His chains were unbound. He felt weak and **dismayed**. He was certain that this was the last day of his life.

At the opposite end, a gate was raised and a **ferocious** lion was released into the arena. It had been kept hungry to make it more ferocious. Androcles was filled with fear, but he **put up a brave front**.

The lion saw Androcles and rushed towards him, bounding and roaring. But suddenly it stopped in its tracks. Then it moved slowly forward. All its rage seemed to have melted. Androcles saw this too. Each friend recognized the other.

To everyone's amazement, the lion bounded towards Androcles again, but when it reached him, it began to purr and rub its nose against him. Androcles hugged the lion. He wept with relief and joy.

The audience, including the emperor, watched this tender sight in great wonder. People began to cheer Androcles and asked for his release. The emperor asked Androcles to explain the lion's strange behaviour. When he heard the whole story, the emperor was also **moved by** the gratitude and friendship between man and beast. He ordered that Androcles should be set free. He would no longer be a slave.

When the emperor asked Androcles what other reward he would like, Androcles replied that he did not want anything for himself, but he wanted the lion to be set free too.

The two friends went back to the forest to live a free life.

• **arena** : a ground surrounded by seats on all sides for sports and other public events.

• **dismayed** : sad

• **ferocious** : wild and dangerous, fierce

• **put up a brave front** : show that one is not afraid

◆ *What did Androcles feel after he was brought to the arena?*

◆ *How did the hungry lion change, when he saw his friend?*

• **moved by** : have strong feelings

◆ *How did the emperor reward Androcles?*

English Workshop

1. (A) Match the phrases in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

Column A

- (1) looking out for
- (2) face to face
- (3) summon up courage
- (4) rage melted
- (5) be moved by

Column B

- (a) anger reduced
- (b) returned slowly
- (c) trying to search for
- (d) filled with soft feelings
- (e) try to be brave
- (f) in front of each other

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

(B) Read the following sentences from the story.

- (1) They were bound by law to obey their master. ☐
- (2) The kind man bound up the lion's injured paw. ☐
- (3) The lion bounded towards Androcles again. ☐

The word 'bound' carries 3 different meanings in each of the sentences.

- (a) rushed forward (b) forced to follow (c) tied up

Put the correct letter a / b / c in the boxes according to the proper meaning.

(C) Now translate each of the three sentences (a,b,c) into your medium of instructions.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)

2. (A) Find from the story the Antonyms (opposite words) of the following.

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|-------|-------------|---|-------|
| (1) kind | × | ..... | (2) poor | × | ..... |
| (3) slave | × | ..... | (4) high | × | ..... |
| (5) punishment | × | ..... | (6) unbound | × | ..... |
| (7) tender | × | ..... | (8) happy | × | ..... |

Conduct a game of synonyms and antonyms in the class.

(B) Find from the story 5 words that describe the sounds made by the lion.

3. Write the reactions that followed each of the actions given below.

- (a) Androcles did not like his cruel master, so
- (b) The lion looked at Androcles piteously, so
- (c) Androcles bandaged the lion's injured paw, so
- (d) A hungry ferocious lion was released into the arena, so
- (e) The lion reached Androcles and
- (f) The emperor asked Androcles what other reward he would like, so

4. Write in your own words 3 to 4 sentences about each of the following.

- (1) The condition of slaves in ancient Rome
- (2) Qualities of Androcles
- (3) Even wild animals can be our friends.

5. Narrate to your class, any short story about 'Kindness to Animals'. (OR) How animals can be kind to humans. Write down the story in your notebook. Give it a title of your own.

Auxiliary Verbs

Verbs that help to form tenses, moods and voices are called Auxiliary (helping) verbs. For example : be, can, may, will, etc.

The three most common Auxiliary verbs, which can stand alone in a sentence are forms of 'be', 'do' and 'have'. They are called **Primary Auxiliaries**.

For example : She is a student of Class 8.

He does his work well.

I have a cold.

Forms of 'Be' : am, is, are, was, were, will / shall be

Forms of 'Do' : do, does, did

Forms of 'Have' : have, has, had

There are other Auxiliary verbs which do not stand alone in a sentence.

They accompany Main (Action) verb.

These are called **Modal Auxiliary Verbs (Modals)**

They are : can, could, shall, should, will, would, must, may, might, need, ought to

For example : He can work hard.

He will work hard.

He must work hard.

Underline the Auxiliary Verbs in the following sentences.

- (1) We have a holiday tomorrow.
- (2) Reena is injured badly.
- (3) You must wear clean clothes.
- (4) She should talk politely.
- (5) They did not help me.
- (6) A big thorn had pierced the lion's toe.
- (7) The lion was caged.
- (8) Androcles did not like his master.
- (9) They could not leave him.
- (10) He would no longer be a slave.
- (11) The slaves were forced to work.
- (12) We should show kindness to animals.

