

Well, as I *was telling* you, I *was rocked* all winter in my cradle on the branch. When the warm days *came*, and soft rains *fell*, then I *grew* very fast indeed. I soon *pushed* myself out of my cradle, *dropped* my blanket, and *showed* my pretty green dress to all who *came* by.

Oh how glad every one *was* to *see* me! And here I *am*, so happy, with my little brothers and sisters about me. Every morning the birds *come* and *sing* to us; the great sun *shines* upon us, and the winds *fan* us.

We *dance* with the winds, we *smile* back at the bright sun, and *make* a pleasant shade for the birds. Every day, happy, laughing school-children *pass* under our tree.

We are always glad to *see* you, boys and girls—glad to *see* your bright eyes, and *hear* you say, "How beautiful the leaves *are*!"

Sentences.

- Nº 1. I am only a leaf.
 „ 2. I was wrapped up in a tiny small blanket.
 „ 3. Break off a branch of a tree and you can find a leaf bud on it.
 „ 4. The brown shell that you break is the cradle.

- „ 5. I was rocked all winter in my cradle on the branch.
 „ 6. I am so happy with my little brothers and sisters about me.
 „ 7. We dance to the winds, we smile back at the bright sun and make a pleasant shade for the birds.
 „ 8. We are glad to hear you say, "How beautiful the leaves are."

Questions.

What is the subject of this lesson? Where did the little leaf spend the winter? Where are leaf buds to be found? How can you find the leaf's home? How did she grow out of it? Was she happy? What made her happy?

XIV.

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"ALFONSO REYES"

Indo. 1625 MONTERREY, MEXICO

The lion.

The lion is often *called* the "King of beasts." His height *varies* from three to four feet, and he *is* from six to nine feet long. His coat *is* of a yellowish brown or tawny color, and

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about his neck is a great shaggy mane which gives his head a majestic appearance.

The strength of the lion is so great that he CAN easily *crush* the skulls of such animals as the horse or ox with one blow of his paw. No one who HAS not *seen* the teeth of a full grown lion, *taken* out of their sockets, CAN have any idea of their real size; one of them forms a good handful, and MIGHT easily BE *mistaken* for a small elephant's tooth.

The home of the lion is in the forests of Asia and Africa, where he is a terror to man and beast. He generally *lies* concealed during the day, but as darkness comes on he *prowls* about where other animals ARE *accustomed* to go for food or drink, and *springs* upon them unawares, with a roar that sounds like the rumble of thunder.

The lion sometimes *lives* to a great age. One by the name of Pompey *died* in London, in the year 1760, at the age of seventy years. If *taken* when young, the lion CAN BE *tamed* and WILL even *show* marks of kindness to his keeper.

In a menagerie at Brussels, Belgium, there was a cell where a large lion, *called* Danco used to BE *kept*. The cell *happened* to be in

need of repair, and the keeper, whose name was William, *desired* a carpenter to come and *mend* it. The carpenter *came*, but was so afraid of the lion, that he WOULD not go near the cell alone.

So William *entered* the cell, and led the lion to the upper part of it, while the other part WAS *refitting*. He *played* with the lion for some time; but, at last, BEING *wearied*, both he and the lion *fell* asleep. The carpenter *went* on with his work, and when he HAD *finished* he *called* out William to come and see it.

He *called* again and again but no William *answered*. The poor carpenter *began* to BE *frightened*, lest the lion HAD *made* his dinner of the keeper, or else *crushed* him with his great paws. He *crept* round to the upper part of the cell, and there *looking* through the railing, he *saw* the lion and William *sleeping* side by side as contentedly as two little brothers.

He WAS so *astonished* that he *uttered* a loud cry. The lion, *awakened* by the noise, *stared* at the carpenter with an eye of fury, and then, *placing* his paw on the breast of the keeper as if to say, "*Touch* him if you *dare*," the heroic beast *lay* down to *sleep* again.

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The carpenter was dreadfully *alarmed*, and, not *knowing* how he could *arouse* William, he *ran out* and *related* what he *had seen*.

Some people *came*, and, *opening* the door of the cell, *contrived* to *awake* the keeper, who, *rubbing* his eyes, quietly *looked* around him, and *expressed* himself very well *satisfied* with his nap. He *took* the lion's paw, *shook* it kindly, and then *retired uninjured* from the cell.

Sentences.

- Nº 1. The lion is of a yellowish brown or tawny color.
 „ 2. He can easily crush the skull of a horse or ox with one blow of his paw.
 „ 3. He generally lies concealed during the day.
 „ 4. If taken young, the lion can be tamed and will even show marks of kindness.
 „ 5. There was a cell where a large lion, called Danco, used to be kept.
 „ 6. William entered the cell, and played with the lion until both fell asleep.
 „ 7. The carpenter, dreadfully alarmed, ran out and related what he had seen.
 „ 8. Some people came and contrived to awake the keeper.
 „ 9. He took the lion's paw, shook it kindly and then retired uninjured from the cell.

Questions.

What is the lion often called? What is the size of a lion? Describe one. Give an idea of his strength. Are his teeth large? Where are lions to be found? What do they feed upon? Can they be tamed? Relate the incident referred to in this lesson.

XV.

A contented workman.

Once upon a time, Frederick, king of Prussia, surnamed "Old Fritz," took a ride, and saw an old laborer *ploughing* his land by the way side, cheerily *singing* his song.

"You must be well off, old man," said the king. "Does this land on which you are *working* so hard, belong to you?"

"No, Sir," replied the laborer, who *knew* not that it *was* the king; "I am not so rich as that: I *plough* for wages."

"How much do you get a day?" asked the king.