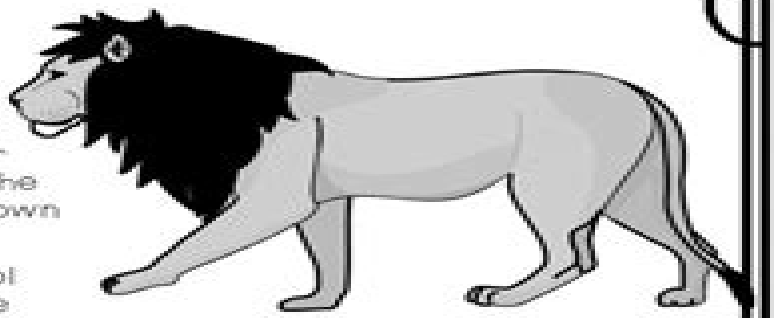
THE LION and the Beetle

African Folktale

Name: _____



Long ago in the savannahs of Africa, lived Lion, who called himself the King of all the animals. Lion was a proud beast and vain as well. Whenever the other animals came near, Lion made sure to growl and to roar to show them that he was the most important animal in the jungle. As he walked by, the other animals would bow down as he would exclaim, "I am your King!"

One day, Lion decided to go for a walk in the cool of the morning. As he came to a lake, he peered into the water and saw his reflection. Such a handsome, noble creature I am, he thought. Lion became so enamored with his reflection that he couldn't take his eyes off of it, and spent several hours gazing at himself. As Lion stood admiring himself, an idea crept into his head. Lion decided that he wanted to prove to the other animals that he was their King.

Lion quickly ran home and changed into his finest royal robe. Then he added all of his gold and silver medals, as well as his ornately jeweled crown. Although the clothing was heavy, he looked mighty and grand, like a king.

Next, Lion hurredly sent out a message to all his animal subjects, including Giraffe, Hyena, Elephant, Gazelle, Ape, and all of the other animals living on the savannah or in the jungle. The message invited them to attend a meeting in front of Lion's palace, where they could admire him in all his finery.

So Giraffe, Hyena, Elephant, Gazelle, and Ape came to see Lion. Zebra was there too, as well as a tiny Beetle, who was so little that he had to walk on the side of the road to avoid being stepped on. As Beetle walked, he sang, "I am small. I am little. People look down and can't see me. I am small. I am little, but inside, I'm tall as a tree!"

When the animals were assembled, Elephant trumpeted to signal the arrival of the king. As Lion walked forward majestically, he roared, "I am your King!" and all of the animals bowed before him.

Lion was pleased to see everyone bowing down until he noticed tiny Beetle, standing alone by the side of the road. As Beetle watched Lion, he continued to sing, "I am small. I am little. People look down and can't see me. I am small. I am little, but inside, I'm tall as a tree!"

Lion was enraged when he saw Beetle, and he commanded Beetle to bow down. Beetle, however said, "Your Royal Majesty, I know that I am small, but if you look at me closely, you will see that I am making a bow!"

As Lion leaned over, to see if what Beetle said was true, the weight of all of Lion's medals, his jewelled crown, and his splendid robe made Lion lose his balance and he fell into a ditch filled with muddy water. When the animals saw that Lion was not really hurt, they started to laugh. Lion, feeling quite humiliated, scurried away too. He was not so very mighty, after all.

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Short Fiction Texts 5th Grade

Emily M Hutchinson

Short Fiction Texts 5th Grade:

Short Fiction Texts 5th Grade Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has are more apparent than ever. Its capability to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is really remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Short Fiction Texts 5th Grade**," written by a very acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound effect on our existence. Throughout this critique, we shall delve into the book is central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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