



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Androcles and the Lion

During the time of ancient Rome, a slave named Androcles once escaped from his master and fled into the forest. As he was wandering around, he came upon a lion, lying down moaning and groaning.

At first he turned to flee, but finding that the lion did not pursue him, Androcles turned back and approached the lion. As he came near, the lion put out his paw, which was all swollen and bleeding. Androcles found that a huge thorn had gotten into the lion's paw, and was causing great pain. He pulled out the thorn and bandaged up the paw of the lion, who was soon able to rise and lick the hand of Androcles like a dog.



The lion was so grateful that he led Androcles to his cave. Everyday, he would bring Androcles meat to eat. Androcles soon began to miss civilization, said goodbye to the lion, and walked back to town. Shortly afterwards, Androcles was recaptured by soldiers.

As punishment for escaping, he was sent to the Colosseum in Rome to fight ferocious animals in front of a large crowd of spectators. As Androcles stood in the middle of the arena, a large, hungry lion was released and ran towards him. Androcles closed his eyes in horror, but then felt a rough tongue licking his hand like a friendly dog. Androcles opened his eyes and saw the lion he had helped earlier, standing in front of him. The lion had repaid the kindness Androcles had shown him.

The emperor, Caligula, was surprised by this and summoned Androcles to him to explain what had happened. After hearing the story of Androcles and the Lion in the forest, Caligula set both of them free.



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1. Which moral goes best with the story?

- a) always help a hurt lion
- b) an act of kindness is often rewarded
- c) animals and humans can be good friends

2. Highlight a sentence or sentence in the passage that supports the moral.

3. Read the following sentence from the passage. "At first he turned to flee, but finding that the Lion did not pursue him, Androcles turned back and approached the Lion." What does *pursue* mean?

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4. Read the following sentence from the passage. ".....Androcles was **recaptured** by soldiers." If **captured** means *caught*, what does **recaptured** mean?

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5. What caused Androcles to be sent to Rome to fight in the Colosseum?

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6. Why do you think Caligula set Androcles and the Lion free?

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