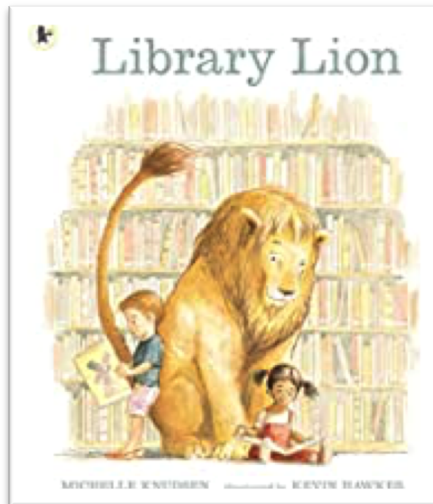


Read for Pleasure

Library Lion

By Michelle Knudsen and Kevin Hawkes



There's a lion in the library and no one knows what to do.

There are rules about shouting.

And rules about running.

But there aren't any rules about lions!



Title Talk

The title of this story is: Library Lion.

- Which of these two words would you associate with a loud noise?
- Which of these two words would you associate with peace and quiet?
- Does it seem odd to put these two words and ideas together?
- What might it tell us about A] the library and B] the lion? Discuss.

Cover Chat

Now look at the cover of this picture book.



- Describe where the lion is and what he is doing.
- How do you think the lion is feeling when he is doing this? Why might this be?
- We also see two children. What are they doing?
- What might this tell us about A] the children and B] the lion?

Page 1-4

- Why might a lion walk into a library? Why would anyone walk into a library?
- A lion entering a library is not an everyday event. How does the librarian, Mr McBee, react? Is he right to react in this way? Discuss.
- How does the head librarian, Miss Merriweather, react? What might this tell us about her character?

Page 5-6



- Do you think this lion has been to a library before?
- What makes you think this?
- Interestingly, we are told that there aren't any rules about lions in the library. Why might this be important?

Page 7-8

- Why do you think the lion wants to listen to the story lady?
- Why might the story lady feel a little nervous?
- Is she right to feel this way? Discuss.
- When story time is over, what do A] the children and B] the lion do?
- Why do you think the lion does this?
- How does the illustrator depict how the lion is feeling on page 8?
- Interestingly, it is a child and not the story lady who tries to comfort him. Why might this be?

Page 9-10



- Which rule has the lion broken?
- What will happen if he cannot keep this rule?
- Who is it that asks Miss Merriweather to be kind to him?
- What must the lion promise in return for being allowed to attend story time tomorrow?
- Does the lion agree to this promise? What does he do to show this?
- How happy does this make the children? Why might this be?
- Discuss how this part of the story has been illustrated on page 10.

Page 11-12

- Why do you think the lion returns to the library early?
- Why might Miss Merriweather have told the lion to dust the encyclopaedias rather than send him away until 3pm?
- What might this tell us about A] Miss Merriweather and B] the lion?



Page 13-14

- What does the lion start doing that tells us he feels part of this community?
- How is the lion's acceptance into this community depicted on page 13?
- After his work in the library is over, the lion continues to curl up and wait for story time. Why do you think he still looks forward to this special time?
- Do you look forward to story time at the end (or any other time) of the day?
- If you don't have a story read to you at any point in the day, would you like to?



Page 15-16

- The text we read on page 15 is both positive and negative towards the lion being in the library. Draw a dotted line between these two parts.
- Who thinks it is a good thing that the lion is helping out in the library? Why do they think this?
- Who does not think it is a good thing that the lion is helping out in the library? Why do you think he feels this way?
- How is this difference of opinion illustrated in page 16?

Page 17-18

- In this part of the story, we see Miss Merriweather tiptoe on a stool to reach a book high up on the bookshelf. Even her fingers are outstretched. What do you predict will happen next?
- How is the tension of this scene developed when the author writes 'Almost... there...'?
- How is this depicted on page 18?

Page 19-20

- When Miss Merriweather falls, why do you think she cries out in pain SOFTLY and does not get up? Indeed, it takes her some time before she calls for help from Mr McBee. What might this tell us about how hard she has fallen and how badly she is hurt?
- The lion begins running to get help. What does this tell us about A] the situation and B] the lion?
- The writer cleverly injects humour into this distressing part of the story. What does Miss Merriweather say that brings a smile to our face?
- Why do you the writer chose to do this? Discuss.

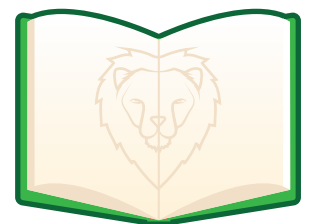


Page 21-22

- What does the lion do to try and attract Mr McBee's attention?
- Why do you think Mr McBee ignores the lion?
- We are told the lion roared the loudest roar he had ever roared in his life. Why do you think this was?
- How is the loudness of the lion's roar depicted on page 22?

Page 23-24

- Mr McBee tells the lion that he has broken the rules by roaring so loudly. Was he right to do so?
- What are the consequences of Mr McBee's words for the lion?
- Interestingly, Mr McBee walks when trying to find Miss Merriweather to tell her of the lion's rule breaking. Why might this be?
- What might this suggest about Mr McBee's character?



Page 25-26

- Mr McBee BURST into Miss Merriweather's office. Why?
- Interestingly, the illustrator chooses to isolate this line of text from the remainder of the page. Why do you think this decision was made?
- Also interesting is the fact that Mr McBee breaks a rule when he runs to get help for Miss Merriweather. Does this remind you of anything?
- Is Miss Merriweather correct when she says that 'sometimes there is a good reason to break the rules. Even in the library.' Discuss.

Page 27-28

- Why is Miss Merriweather not too concerned about having her arm in a sling when she returns to work the next day?
- Why do you think she walks over to the story corner at 3pm?
- Why might she grow concerned when she discovers that the lion is not there.
- Look at the illustration on page 28. Is Miss Merriweather paying attention to the story lady? Where do you think she is looking and why?
- Are all the children paying attention to the story lady? Which two children aren't? Why might they be looking elsewhere?
- What might this suggest about the atmosphere in the library now that the lion is no longer there? Discuss.

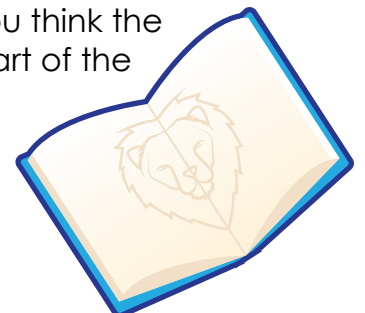
Page 29-30

- We are told that the people in the library keep looking for the familiar furry face of the lion. Indeed, everyone, apart from Mr McBee is distracted from their reading because the lion is not there. How does the illustrator depict this?
- Did you notice that all the books the children are reading are about lions? Might this have been deliberate?



Page 31-32

- When Mr McBee asks Miss Merriweather if there is anything he can do to help, why do you think she replies in a very quiet voice while looking out of the window?
- The illustration on page 32 is of a plant that has not been cared for properly. It is losing leaves and has no flowers. Why do you think the illustrator chose to draw this image to accompany this part of the story? Discuss.



Page 33-34

- Mr McBee decides to go looking for the lion. Why?
- Where does he look? What might this suggest about A] Mr McBee and B] the search itself?
- Why do you think the illustrator chose to depict Mr McBee's search in heavy rain? Might this be significant?

Page 35-36

- Where does Mr McBee finally find the lion? Why is this important?
- How does the illustration on page 35 depict the lion's loneliness and sadness? How does this make us feel towards him?
- Interestingly, Mr McBee does not apologise to the lion for his actions but, instead, tells him of the new rule at the library. What is this new rule and why do you think Mr McBee tells the lion about it?
- Why do you think the lion's ears twitched upon hearing about this new rule?
- Do you think it is odd that Mr McBee was already walking away from the lion when the lion turned around to look at him? What might this tell us about Mr McBee's character? Discuss.



Page 37-40

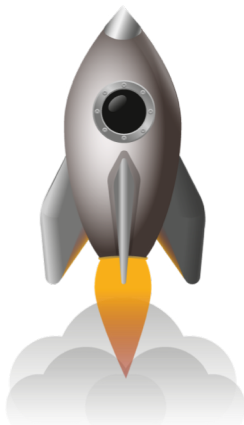
- How happy and excited are A] Miss Merriweather and B] the children and other library users when the library lion returns?
- How is this depicted in the final illustration?

Think about the book as a whole:

How important was the library to the lion and the lion to the library?

How important is our (class/school/local) library?

How important a time is story time?



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