



The new lion and the mouse

...the mouse teaches the lion
about **Corona** safety

Known to unknown is the best way to teach anything to children. In these confusing and conflicting times of Covid it is important that we do not scare our children but help them use known story book characters to understand the new world of Covid rules. It is important to use stories to help children understand the 'changed rules' of uncertain times like the Covid pandemic. We talk about social distancing, not touching our mouth and nose and washing our hands even when they don't seem dirty! I urge parents to use this story to teach children about physical (don't confuse them with social distancing) distancing, good habits about how to sneeze, cough and wash hands.

I have also written another story called 'Goldilocks and the Covid Smart bears'. Story telling of both the stories can be viewed on Utube and Facebook of Crossword and Early Childhood Association.

For more details about this story write to ecapresidentindia@gmail.com



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about **Corona**
safety



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In a **big city** like yours,
lived a mouse.

It was **lockdown** due to
Corona Virus and the
mouse was feeling
lonely.

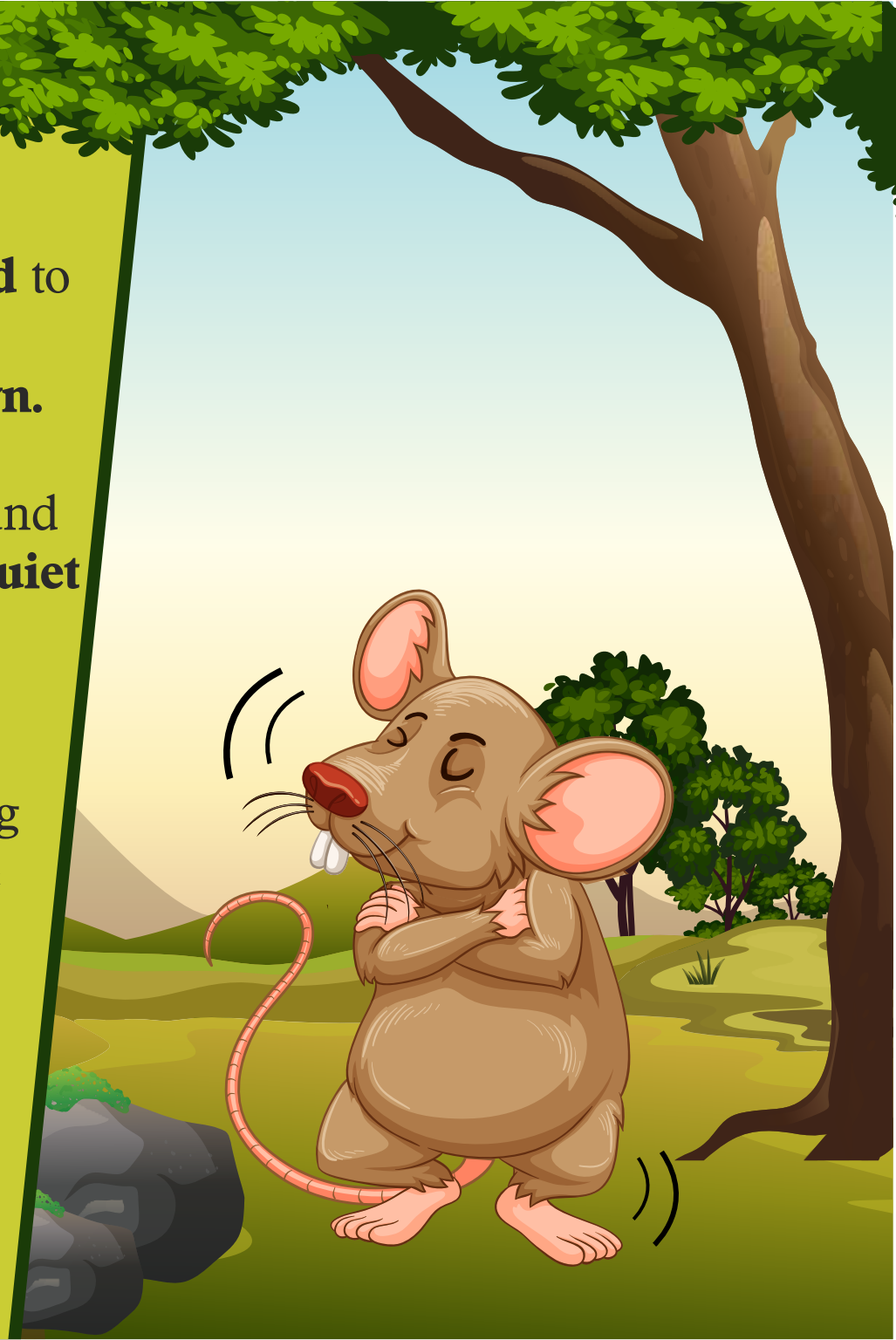
There was nobody on
the streets, the rubbish
dumps were empty
and the **stray cats**
were **roaming** freely
trying to **catch** the
mice!



The mouse **decided** to
go to the **jungle** to
spend the **lockdown.**

In the jungle he found
everything **clean, quiet**
and green.

The mouse had a
good time, scuttling
around through the
grass and climbing
over rocks.



One day he found a lovely soft spot to play on.

It was a little **raised**, like a **mound**, and it was **soft** and **bouncy**.

The mouse squealed with **delight** and bounced up and down.

He was actually **jumping** on a **lion!**



Suddenly he heard a loud roar and he was **gripped** around **his waist** and **lifted** up in the air.

The mouse realised that he had been caught!

The lion that caught him in his giant paw roared and asked him, “**What kind of an animal are you?**”

The mouse squeaked and said, “Well, I am a **mouse** and I have recently come here from the city. **Who are you?**”



The lion roared again and said, "I am the king of the jungle, and because I just had a **hearty meal**, I will not be eating you, I will save you for later...as a snack."

Now, the mouse had to think quickly to save himself.

So he said, "Excuse me **King of the Jungle** but can you please keep me a little way from your mouth?"

"Hah", said the lion, "**scared that I will eat you?**"

"No, no", said the mouse, "we have to maintain **social distancing** so please hold me a little **away from your face.**"



The lion **roared confused** and asked, "**Social distancing?**"

What is that? And why?"

The mouse knew he had the lion's attention, so he said, "Well there is a **new danger** called **corona** and it is dangerous, so if you want to stay away from it then follow **social distancing**, which means hold me at least **3 feet** from your face."

"**Ok**", roared the lion, "I will hold you **3 feet** away, **Is that O.K?**"



“Well”, said the mouse,
“have you **washed your paws?**”

“What?” roared the lion,
“wash my paws? **Why?**”

“Well”, said the mouse,
“**to stay away from corona** you have to wash your paws **regularly,** frequently.”

“Hah”, said the lion,
“I am not going to fall for your **tricks.**”



“Well”, **squeaked** the mouse, “then at least cover your **mouth with a mask.**”

“What’s that?” roared the lion

“Well, you have to **cover your mouth and nose or corona** will get you”, explained the mouse.

“I don’t have a mask, can I **cover it with a leaf?**” asked the confused lion.

“Sure”, said the mouse, “I can get it for you and...”

“**No**”, interrupted the lion, “**I can hold you with one paw** and get a leaf with the other!” And the lion picked up a large **leaf and covered his mouth.**



“Wait, wait”, squeaked the mouse.
“What now?” asked the lion?
“You **cannot touch the mask** with unwashed paws, you need to **wash your paws**”, the mouse said smartly.
“Well, I can wash one paw”, said the lion.
“No, no dear king of the jungle, you need to **wash all four paws**.
Don’t worry, you can put me down and **I will wait for you**, after all you cannot touch anything, not even me, **without washing your paws**”, squeaked the mouse.

The lion thought deeply and then decided to do as the mouse said; he put down the mouse near him, so that he can keep an **eye on him** and washed his front paws and then his back paws.

But as soon as he put the **mouse down** and turned to wash his paws in the river, the mouse **swiftly ran far away**, he climbed out of reach of the lion, on to a rock and squeaked from there, “**good job, king of the jungle.**”



The lion turned around and realised that the little mouse had **fooled him**.

He said, “You are **smart**, but tell me **what is this corona?** Is it real or were making a fool of me?”

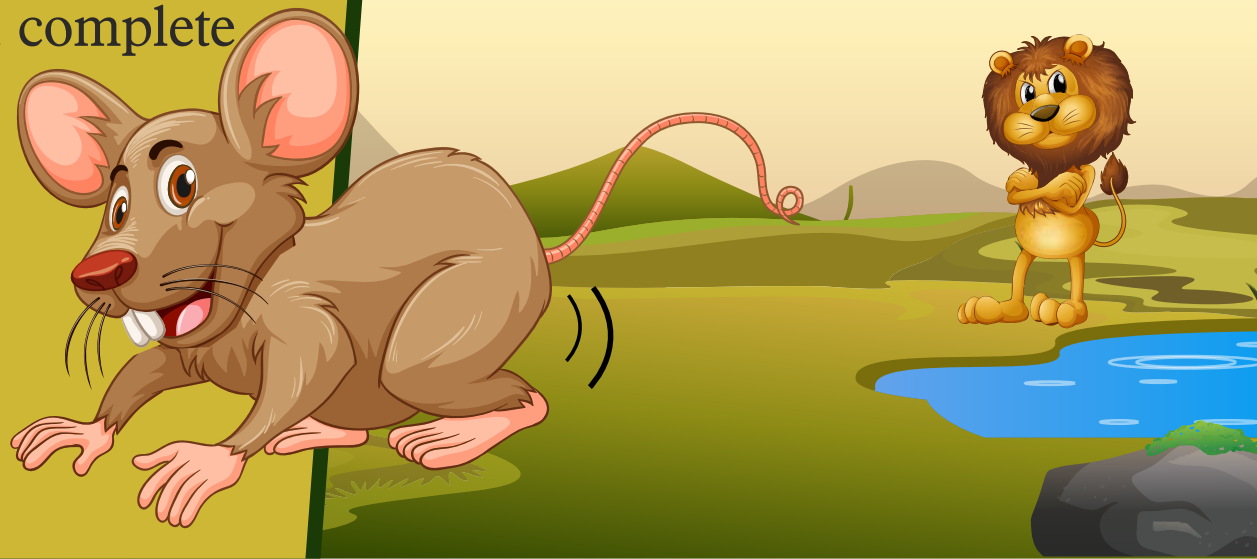
The mouse squeaked loudly and replied, “It is **true, king of the jungle**, the city where I come from, **there is this disease called corona** and all humans are **washing their hands, maintaining social distancing and covering their mouth and nose with a mask to stay safe.**”



“Well”, roared the lion,
“you may have tricked
me but **you did give me**
some **good information.**

I am **letting you go** but
next time I catch you...

The mouse **scuttled**
away quickly before the
lion could complete
his
sentence.



So, children the three things
that saved me today can save
you from corona, so
wash your hands,
wear a mask and remember
social distancing.

CORONA VIRUS IS SPREADING... RAPIDLY

No need to panic. No need to get worried by reading
forwards and false news.

Remember **PREVENTION** is better than cure.

So, let's practice CORONA prevention with these simple steps:



cover your mouth when you sneeze
or cough. Use a tissue and throw
it in the bin.



one thing to do, is to stay away from
people who have cough or cold. Keep
yourself away from people when you
have it too.



restrict frequenting public
places. Stay away from
parties and gatherings or
swimming pools.



one more thing you can do is disinfect
frequently touched surfaces like door
handles etc. With a wipe. In public
places touch railings, door knobs etc.
with a tissue.



namaste!
No handshakes or hugs.



always wash hands with a good soap.
Scrub fingers, thumb and wrists.



#vatsgyaan by Dr. Swati Popat Vats