

The Lion Who Wished – a story for Younger children

told by Paul Gobey

Once upon a time stories, from Leicester Libraries, Neighbourhood Services. I'm Paul, and the story I'm going to share with you is, The Lion Who Wished.

We all wish for things don't we? Oh, I wish I could go on holiday. I wish I could stay up late. I wish I could have some ice-cream. But Lion was always wishing, all the time!

When it was night-time He wished it was daytime, so he could go out and play. He wished he could climb the trees so he could see up high. And he wished it would stop raining, 'cause it dripped on his nose and it dripped on his feet and he got all wet. "I wish, I wish, I wish."

One day, he was walking through the jungle and he saw a butterfly flying through the air. "Ohhhh" he said, "I wish I could fly. How good would that be?"

And the butterfly said, "Well, I can help you. Today I'm magic and I can give you one wish and one wish only. What do you want?"

"I want to fly. I want wings just like you."

"Ok" said the butterfly, "Close your eyes and wish so hard, and we'll see what happens."

So the lion closed his eyes and he wished, "I want wings. I want wings. I want wing, wing, wing, wing, wing, wing, wings." And when he opened his eyes, ahhh, he had a pair of wings just like a butterfly. And he flew up and up and up. He flew down and down. And he even flew round and round and round and upside down. He had so much fun. "This is the best ever. Flying is fantastic!"

And then he saw an elephant, with his long, long trunk. Pulling up a big log from the ground. "Wow" said the lion, "Ohhh, I wish I had a long nose like yours. Then I could pick things up. I could pull things down, and, pshhhh, give myself a shower when I felt too hot."

"Well" said the elephant, "I might be able to help you. Today I'm magic and I can give you one wish, and one wish only. What do you want?"

He said, "I want a nose like yours. I want a trunk like that."

"OK" said the elephant, "Close your eyes and wish so hard, and we'll see what happens."

So the Lion closed his eyes and he wished, "I want a trunk, I want a trunk. I want a long, long, long, long nose. I want a trunk. I want a trunk." And when he opened his eyes, wooh, he'd grown a great long nose. A trunk like an elephant. It was fantastic. He could pick things up. He could pull things down. And, pshhhhh, give himself a wash too. He was so happy, with his wonderful wings and his long, long trunk.

Until he saw a parrot, sitting in the tree, "Squawk, squawk, squawk, squawk."

"Ohhh" said the lion, "What a beautiful tail." And it was. The parrot's tail was fantastic. It was red and yellow and green and all those wonderful colours.

"Ohhh," said the lion, "I wish I had a tail like yours. My tail's rubbish. It's small and dirty and brown. Ach, it's boring. I want a tail like yours."

"OK," said the parrot, "I can help you. Today I'm magic and I can give you one wish and one wish only. What do you want?"

He said, "I want a tail. I want a tails tail, tail. I want a tail like yours."

“OK” said the parrot, “Close your eyes and wish so hard.”

So, the lion closed his eyes, “I want a tail, I want a tail, I want a tail, tail, tail, tail, tail.” And when he opened his eyes, whoosh, woohoo, he had a beautiful tail, just like the parrots. Red and yellow and green and blue, all the wonderful colours. And he walked through the jungle showing everybody his wonderful new tail, “Woohoo, woohoo, look at my wonderful tail.” And he was very happy until he met a monkey jumping up and down in the middle of the jungle. Boing, boing, boing, boing, boing.

“Woahhh” said the lion, “I love your jumpy legs. Oooo, can I have some?”

“Oh, well,” said the monkey. I can help you. Because today I’m magic and I can give you one wish and one wish only. What do you want.

He said, “I want legs, I want legs like yours, so I can jump. Boing, boing, boing, boing. And play all day long.”

“OK,” said the monkey, “Close your eyes and wish so hard and we’ll see what happens.”

So he closed his eyes and he said, “I want legs, I want legs, I want legs that jump. I want legs, I want legs, I want legs that jump.” And when he opened his eyes, boing, he had legs just like the monkey. Boing, boing, boing, boing. He could jump so high and he had so much fun.

Ooooh, he was so amazed. He had wings like a butterfly. He had a nose like an elephant. He had a tail, woohoo like a parrot and now he had jumpy legs just like the monkey. And then he saw a giraffe.

“Ahhhh, oooo. Oh giraffe, wow, you look so tall. I love your neck.”

And the giraffe looked down and said, “Oh, hello lion, how you doing? It’s a great view up here.”

“Oh,” said the lion, “I wish I had a long, long, long, long neck like yours so that I could see everywhere.”

“OK” said the giraffe, “You’re lucky, because today I’m magic and I can give you one wish and one wish only. What do you want?”

He said, “I want a neck. I want a long, long, long, long, long neck just like yours.”

“OK,” said the giraffe, “Close your eyes and wish so hard.”

So he closed his eyes and he wished, “I want a neck. I want a neck. I want a neck. I want a neck.” And when he opened his eyes, woohooo, he had a long, long neck like a giraffe. And he could look there, he could look there, he could look everywhere..

“Ooohh.” He said, “This is wonderful. It’s a fantastic view up here.”

By this time he was starting to feel, yawn, a bit tired. A bit thirsty. So he went down to have a little drink. And as you look down in the water, it’s like a mirror. There’s a reflection. And he looked down and he, “hahahahah” he started to laugh. Because there was something funny in the water. With wings like a butterfly and a nose like an elephant. A tail like a parrot, funny jumpy legs like a monkey and a long, long, long, long neck like a giraffe. He said, “You look silly. Hahahahahah, wohohoho. What a sight you are, Ohhh!” He looked again. “It’s me. Ahhh, I’ve got wings and I’ve got a tail, and I’ve got a nose like an elephant and legs like a monkey and a neck like a giraffe. I look so silly. Everybody’s going to laugh at me. What have I done?”

And just then he saw another lion walking down the path. He said, “Oh, I wish I looked like you. You look like a proper lion. Can you help me?”

And the lion said, “You’re lucky. Today I’m magic and I can give you one wish and one wish only. What do you want?”

And he said, "Make me back a lion. I want to be a proper lion that looks like you."

"OK," said the lion, "Close your eyes and wish so hard."

So the lion closed his eyes and he wishes and he wished, "I want to be a lion. I want to be a lion. I want to be a lion. I want to be a lion." And when he opened his eyes, whoosh, he was back being a proper lion. With no wings. No long trunk. No Fancy tail. No long, long, neck and no funny, jumpy legs. He looked ike a proper lion.

"Phew" he said, "Thank goodness for that!"

From that day on, he never wished for anything else. And in the morning when he wakes up, he runs down and looks in the river to make sure he hasn't grown a long nose or wings or legs or tail over the night. But he never did, he stayed a lion, as happy as can be.

Hope you've enjoyed that story. If you have, share it with someone. Enjoy your stories this summer, bye.