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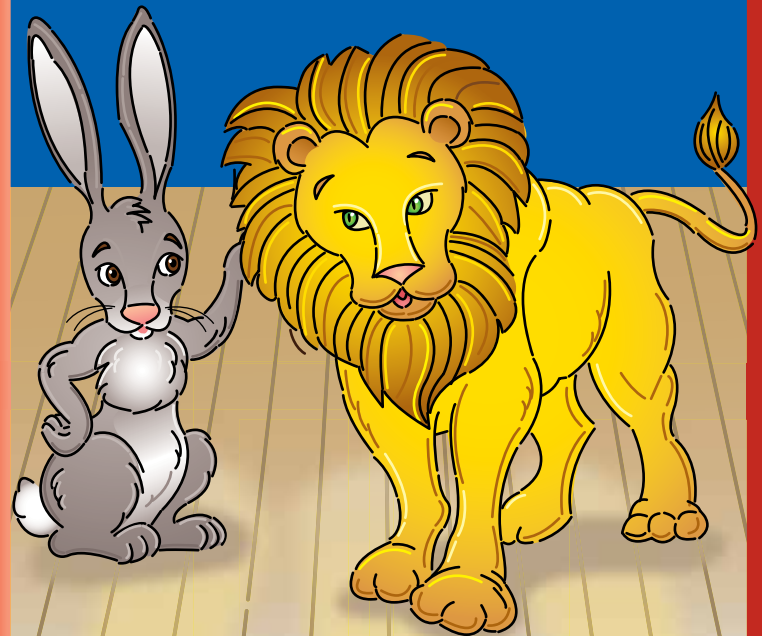
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# Readers' Theater

## The Lion and the Hare Go Hunting: An Ethiopian Tale





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**Narrator 4** The lion used each of the feathers until he had tried them all. The donkey had been tickled so much that he could not stop laughing.

**Narrator 1** Unable to tolerate more tickling, the donkey broke free from the lion and escaped, returning to the village.

**Narrator 2:** To this day, whenever the donkey recalls the lion tickling him with eagle feathers, he laughs.

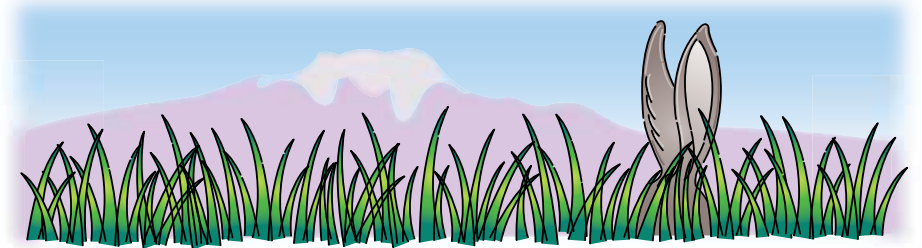
**Narrator 3:** Listen carefully. You may be able to hear it, too. “Hee haw! Hee haw! Hee haw!”



## The Lion and the Hare Go Hunting:



An Ethiopian Tale



**Narrator 1:** In Ethiopia some animals enjoy a reputation for being very clever. The monkey and the jackal are two such animals. But this story is about a third very clever animal—the hare.

**Narrator 2:** The hare is so clever that even the large, strong, swift beasts respect him—beasts like leopards and lions.

**Narrator 3:** One day, a strong, swift lion caught a hare.

**Lion:** I am very, very hungry.

**Hare:** Why is your mouth watering when you look at me, oh mighty lion?

**Lion:** Because you are meat and I intend to eat you right now!

**Hare:** Are you blind? Look at me—I am small and thin. Eating me will never take away your hunger. But I have an idea. Why don't we go hunting? Together we can catch something large and fat.

**Lion:** You make me laugh! How could an animal like you catch something large and fat?

**Hare:** If you follow me to the village where people live, perhaps we can find something to satisfy your hunger. If we find nothing, then you can eat me.

**Narrator 4:** Together the lion and the hare went to the village and prowled for food.

**Narrator 1:** There, just outside the village, the lion captured a fat young bull.



**Narrator 4:** Once safely behind the locked door, the hare used the lion's knife to kill the bull, cook it, and enjoy the feast. The hare's belly was full for many, many days.

**Narrator 1:** The lion, inside the hare's cave, took one of the eagle feathers. Thinking it was a knife, he tried to kill the donkey with it.

**Narrator 2:** Of course, the feather could not kill the donkey. It only tickled him. "Hee haw!" laughed the donkey.

**Narrator 3:** The lion took a second feather from his belt and again tried to kill the donkey. But it tickled, and again the donkey laughed. "Hee haw! Hee haw!"



**Hare:** No, I cannot trade homes. Yours is much too dangerous!

**Narrator 2:** The lion grew angry once more and glared at the hare threateningly.

**Hare:** All right, you may take my house if you insist. I will occupy yours although I think it is a trap.

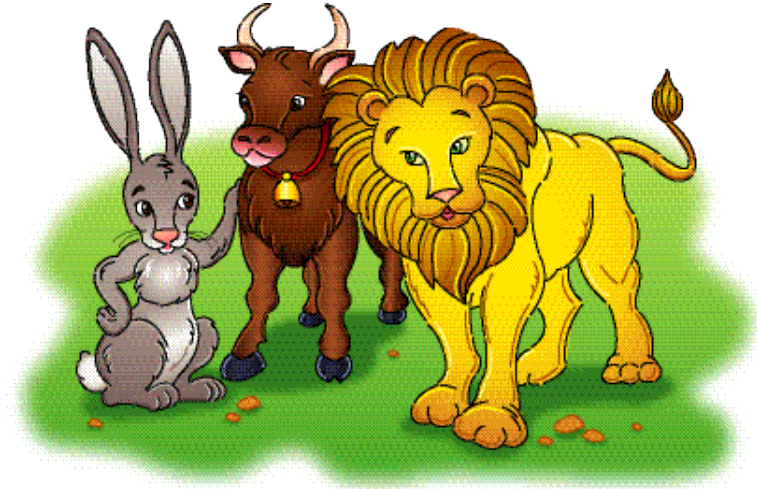
**Narrator 3:** The hare entered the lion's cave, closed the one door and locked it securely. The lion moved into the rabbit's cave with its many entrances.

**Narrator 2:** The hare also hunted but found nothing as large and fat as the bull. The hare captured only a thin donkey who was rolling around on its back on a dusty trail.

**Narrator 3:** Together, they began walking toward home, taking the bull and the donkey with them. All the while, the hare gazed upon the fat bull. The hare's mouth watered as he thought of its delicious meat.

**Hare:** Oh, lion, what a shame that you had bad luck today while hunting.

**Lion:** How can you say that? Look at my young bull!



**Hare:** That bull will not make a good meal. Look at how thin and undernourished it is. Even I would be a more satisfying meal for you than that bull would be.

**Narrator 4:** The lion was suspicious as he looked at his bull.

**Lion:** To me, my bull does not look thin and undernourished.

**Hare:** But what about the steam?

**Lion:** What?

**Hare:** When you strike a fat animal, it gives off a burst of steam. No steam—no fat. Everyone knows that.

**Narrator 1:** Still not convinced, the lion struck his bull across its back using a strong stick. There was no steam, so he struck the animal again. But there was still no steam.

**Lion:** If you look, you will see that he is fat.

**Hare:** I see that you have only one door. Are you not afraid?

**Lion:** I am a mighty hunter, afraid of no living creature!

**Hare:** What about men; do you not at times fear men?

**Lion:** Ah, men can be very threatening. Indeed, I fear them, but I fear no other creature.

**Hare:** I, too, fear men. That is why my home has many doors. Look over there at my cave. It has many entrances. If a hunter comes looking for me by one door, I scurry out another. If he looks for me by the second door, I leave by a third one. And so on. If a hunter entered your cave by its one door, where would you go? How would you escape?

**Lion:** I've never considered that, but you are correct. We shall trade homes. I will not live in a trap!

**Hare:** Do not be angry, oh mighty lion.  
Take my eight knives and give me  
your one.

**Narrator 4:** The hare handed his eight eagle  
feathers to the lion and accepted  
the lion's sharp knife in return.

**Narrator 1:** Continuing along the trail,  
they finally came to the lion's cave.  
The hare began to click  
his tongue.

**Hare:** That cannot be the home of a  
mighty hunter such as yourself.  
Look! It is a trap!

**Lion:** It is my home, but I see no trap.

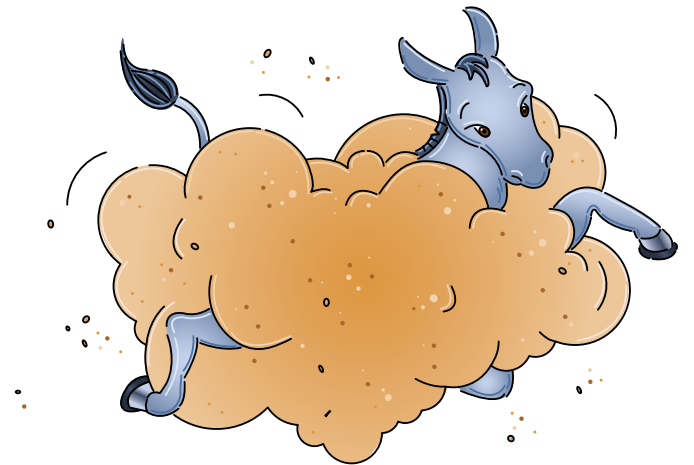


**Narrator 2:** But the lion was beginning to doubt  
himself. He had never heard about  
steam and fat although he did not  
want to reveal his ignorance to the  
hare.

**Hare:** That poor bull has been starved. It's  
nearly dead.

**Narrator 3:** As he spoke, the hare used the  
strong stick to strike the back of the  
thin, worn donkey. A large puff of  
dust rose from the donkey's back—  
dust gathered when the donkey  
rolled on the dusty trail.

**Hare:** See—the steam rises from the  
donkey's back. That is certainly a  
delicious, fat animal!



**Lion:** I will eat the donkey, and you will eat the bull!

**Hare:** Never! We will each eat what we ourselves caught.

**Narrator 4:** The lion began to growl and approach the hare threateningly.

**Hare:** All right, then. I am not pleased about this, but you can have your way. You take the donkey, and I will settle for the starved bull.

**Narrator 1:** The lion and the hare continued to herd their meals toward home. Along the trail, the hare picked up eight eagle feathers and put them in his belt like men carry knives. Eventually they stopped to rest.

**Hare:** See—I carry with me eight light hunting knives. If I lose one, seven remain. You are a great hunter, Lion, yet you carry only one knife. What if you lose it?



**Narrator 2:** Looking at the eight feathers, the lion considered what the hare said. It did not seem right to the Lion, a mighty hunter, that the hare should have more weapons than he did.

**Lion:** Let us trade my one knife for your eight.

**Hare:** Never! I am so small and thin that I need more weapons than you who are so big and mighty.

**Narrator 3:** The lion grew angry and growled.

**Lion:** How dare you argue with me!