

HBJH Reading Competition

《The Lion and the Clever Rabbit》

A long time ago, there was a hungry lion in a deep forest. He was the king of the animals, and every day he hunted animals for his meals. To save their lives, the animals made a plan. "Let's send one animal to the lion every day so he won't hunt all of us," they said. The lion agreed.

One day, it was a small rabbit's turn. The rabbit was very afraid, but he was also very clever. He walked slowly and arrived late at the lion's cave. The lion was angry and roared, "Why are you late? I am starving!" The rabbit replied, "I am sorry, King. But on my way here, I saw another lion. He said he was the real king of this forest!"

The lion was furious. "Show me this lion!" he shouted. The rabbit led him to a deep, clear well and said, "He is hiding inside." The lion looked into the well and saw his own reflection. He thought it was the other lion. He roared, and the reflection roared back. The lion jumped into the well to fight his enemy, but he could not swim. The clever rabbit saved the forest, and all the animals lived happily ever after.

~An excerpt from *Panchatantra*