

Welcome to the Jungle
Based on Aesop's fable "The Lion and the Mouse"

Program Notes

"Welcome to the Jungle" is a mini-musical based on Aesop's famous fable, "The Lion and the Mouse", about a tiny mouse who comes to the rescue of a ferocious lion. Aesop was a slave who was born in Greece around 620 B.C. He was positioned in the court of Croesus, the last of the kings of Lydia in Asia Minor. While there, he became famous for narrating wise, witty, and delightful tales or fables. It is said that he was granted freedom as a reward, and eventually became a kind of ambassador, traveling to other cities.

Aesop died around 565 B.C., but his famous fables were handed down from generation to generation.

Around three centuries after his death, 200 of his fables were written down in a collection titled

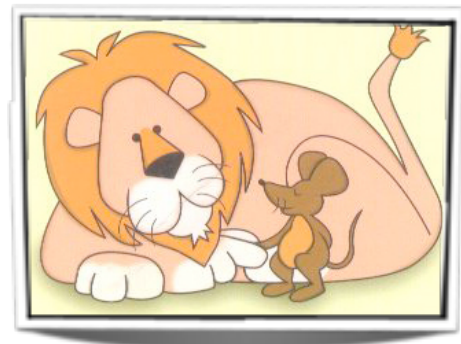
Assemblies of Aesopic Tales. Aesop's fables used

powerful themes and compelling characters in fast-

paced and colorful story lines. The animals of the forest and the barnyard were

endowed with human passions, feelings, and speech. Even today, Aesop's fables speak to

all ages and generations, and have been translated into almost every language in the world.



This version of "The Lion and the Mouse" takes place in an African jungle. The style is derived from the storytelling traditions of Africa, which often include music, chants, poetry, and dance performed collectively. Listen for these Swahili words found throughout our program:

Jambo (*greetings*)

Hadhari (*caution, careful*)

Jumuia (*community*)

Tembo (*elephant*)

Maliki (*king*)

Rafiki (*friend*)

Furaha (*happiness, fun*)

Panya (*mouse*)

Kiboko (*bhipopotamus*)

Hatari (*danger*)

Hali (*circumstance, situation*)

Tumbili (*monkey*)

Twiga (*giraffe*)