

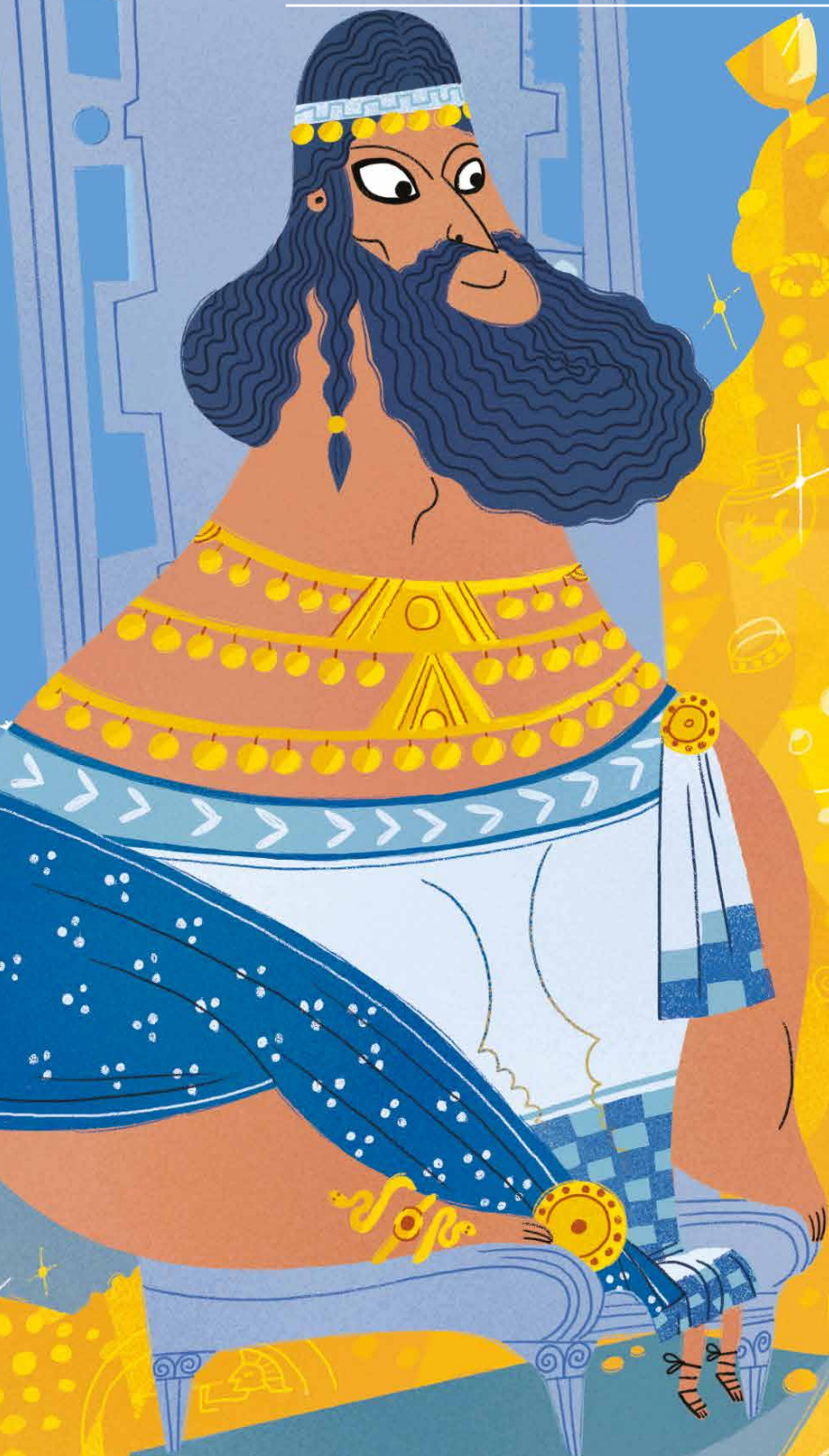
storytime™

WE ARE

2

HEROES

BE KIND AND KEEP CLEAN!



IN THIS ISSUE

**KING MIDAS
THE LION AND
THE MOUSE**

PLUS!

new puzzles,
quizzes and
fun activities
to do!

This issue of *Storytime: We Are Heroes* features two classic stories about the importance of being mindful and kind during difficult times.

In the story of King Midas, the ruler acts rashly and discovers that being able to turn anything he touches into gold can lead to problems – and tragedy! Being careful not to harm yourself and others by touching things is very relevant during the current COVID-19 situation!

The story of the Lion and the Mouse is about the importance of kindness – which is especially valuable in difficult and stressful times.

Reading these stories with children, talking what they mean, and doing the activities in the back of this magazine are great ways to discuss COVID and how to cope with the challenges it brings.

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THE MIDAS TOUCH

King Midas was the ruler of Phrygia and one of the richest monarchs in the world – he was famous far and wide for his enormous wealth.

However, as King Midas grew older, he began to worry that his riches would one day run out and that he wouldn't be able to keep his magnificent castle and the beautiful rose garden he had created.

He started to spend long hours in his vaults, counting his coins, which made his daughter, Princess Zoë, very sad. She longed for the days when her father read stories to her.

One day, Midas was in his vaults when the castle's guards burst in, holding up an exhausted-looking satyr. The satyr, who had the legs and tail of a horse and the body of a man, was Silenus – a close friend of Dionysus, the god of wine. ➡



“We found this intruder sleeping in your rose garden, Your Majesty!” said the king’s guards.

Silenus explained that he had got separated from Dionysus and had lost his way. After many days, he had come upon the king’s rose garden and fallen asleep there.

Usually, anyone who broke into the king’s rose garden would be punished, but Midas was in a fine mood after counting his gold, so he treated Silenus well. He gave him a grand room to rest in and celebrated with a banquet.

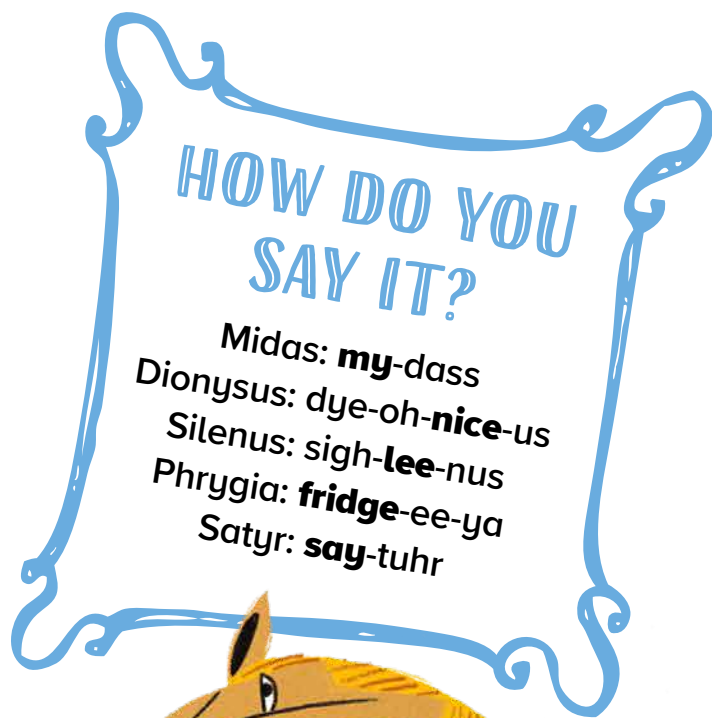


When the satyr had recovered, the king escorted him in his own carriage to the home of Dionysus.

The god Dionysus was happy to see his friend again and pleased that Midas had treated the satyr with kindness. Dionysus decided to return the favour, and offered to grant King Midas’s deepest wish.

The king didn’t hesitate for a second. “I wish that everything I touch would turn to gold!”

Dionysus looked most troubled. The god asked the king,



“Are you sure this wish is wise?” But King Midas insisted that it was all he wanted.

“Then it is so, but I fear you may regret it,” sighed Dionysus, and he granted the wish with a wave of his hand.



Midas left Dionysus, brimming with excitement at the thought of his golden touch. As he walked away, he touched a branch with the tips of his fingers. It instantly turned to gold! He ran to his carriage and touched that too. It also turned to gleaming gold. Now he need never worry about running out of money again!

When he reached his palace, he rushed to his rose garden and touched the flowers there. One by one, their delicate petals turned to pure gold, shining in the late afternoon sun. King Midas plucked a single golden rose to admire it. ➡

A colorful illustration of King Midas, a man with a long blue beard and a blue and gold robe, standing in a garden filled with red roses. He is holding a golden rose. The garden is filled with many red roses, and a path of golden roses leads towards him. The background is a bright yellow sun. A blue decorative frame surrounds the text on the right.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

King Midas turned his daughter to gold by hugging her. Hugging is usually a nice thing, but can you think of times it can be harmful?

"Soon
everything
around him
was glinting
with gold."



The king was hungry after his long journey, so he asked for some food to be brought to him. While he waited, he touched his plate, his knife and his fork, laughing gleefully as they transformed into solid gold.

He touched his chair and table, then the other chairs and the walls – soon everything around him was glinting with gold. It was a spectacular sight!

The servants brought his meal and he was delighted to find that, as he raised his goblet to drink from it, it too turned to gold. King Midas loved his special gift.

However, as his drink touched his lips, it quickly turned from liquid to solid. Midas put down his goblet and picked up a pear, but it changed to gold the moment he touched it. He speared a chunk of cheese with his golden fork and tried to put it in his mouth without letting it touch his lips but, as he bit down, it became a hard golden nugget. It was quite impossible to eat or drink anything!

Just then, Princess Zoë ran into the room. She was astonished at the sight of all the gold. "Father!" she exclaimed. "Your roses have turned to gold!"

"I know!" said King Midas. "Isn't it marvellous?"



The king stood up to hug his daughter in celebration. But as he did so, he felt her soft skin suddenly turn hard and cold. When he stepped back, he saw that he had turned his daughter into a statue.

King Midas knew then what a terrible mistake he had made. Heavy teardrops fell down his cheeks and rolled across the floor like golden pearls. Now he knew why Dionysus had been reluctant to grant such a foolish wish.



In desperation, King Midas ran to his golden carriage and returned to the home of Dionysus. There, he begged

the god to undo the wish that had become his curse and to save his beloved daughter, Princess Zoë.

Dionysus was happy that the greedy King had learnt his lesson and he told Midas to go and wash himself in the nearby River Pactolus. The king followed the god's instructions and, to his great surprise, as he bathed in the river, he saw the gold wash away from him and flow into the water.



When the king returned to his palace later that day, he was relieved to see that Princess Zoë was restored to normal. He embraced his daughter and promised never to be greedy again – and he was true to his word. ➡

From that day on, if he ever felt tempted to visit his vaults and count up his coins, he took one look at the single golden rose he had plucked from his garden – his only reminder from the days of his Midas Touch – and he decided to spend time with Princess Zoë instead. ★



CAN'T TOUCH THIS!

In the story, Midas quickly learned that he had to be careful about what he touched! To avoid catching or passing on illness, here are some things that you should avoid touching when away from home:

- Your hands or mouth
- Handrails on stairs or public transport (unless necessary)
- Door handles
- Other people's hands or faces!
- If you DO touch these things, a quick clean with hand sanitiser is a good idea!

THE MIDAS TOUCH!

GET YOUR HANDS SPARKLING CLEAN

Here is a fun activity that shows how well you have to wash your hands to get them properly clean!

1. Rub a small amount of hand soap on your hands!
2. get a parent or carer to sprinkle a teaspoon of glitter or pepper on your hands, then rub the glitter or pepper all over them.
3. In a sink or basin, use water to help scrub every bit of glitter or pepper off your hands. Imagine that every bit of speck is a germ!

EXPERIMENT TIME!



In the story, Midas got rid of his curse by washing in the River Pactolus. You can wash away dirt and germs by following these instructions!



1. Wet your hands and add a squirt of soap or hand sanitiser.



2. Rub your palms together.



3. Wash between ALL fingers.



4. Wash all around your thumbs.



5. Scrub the back of both hands.



6. Wash all around both wrists.



7. Rinse off the soap and dry your hands carefully.

THE LION AND THE MOUSE

It was a hot, dry day in the forest – a lazy, ‘stretch out long and yawn’ type of day. This was just what the lion was doing when a little mouse came scampering towards him.

She was on her way home, but the sun’s rays were shining so brightly in her eyes that she didn’t see the lion in the clearing ahead of her. Before she knew it, she was running up his leg, along his back, through his majestic golden mane and all the way to the tip of his long lion nose.



The snoozing lion was annoyed to be disturbed by the ticklish pitter-patter of the mouse's feet, so he swiped his great paw at his nose and grabbed the mouse in his long sharp claws.

"Who dares to walk over me – the King of the Jungle?" growled the hot and bothered lion.

He was just about to open his huge jaws and swallow the mouse whole, when he heard her squeak in a trembling voice, "Oh please, mighty lion, please let me go. My children are waiting for me at home. If you let me live now, then one day, I may be

able to repay your kindness. Perhaps I will be able to help you?"

With that, the lion roared loudly – not with anger, but with laughter.

"You? A little mouse like you, helping me... the strongest and fiercest animal in the land? That's the funniest thing I've ever heard!"

The lion was so amused at the idea, he loosened his grip on the mouse and she escaped. She ran and ran as fast as she could, all the way home.

Later that week, some hunters visited the forest and left behind a big trap. ➡



'The Lion and the Mouse' is one of many fables written by an ancient Greek storyteller called Aesop. Aesop's fables often have a lesson or 'moral' – this story is about how kindness is often repaid with kindness.

They wanted to impress the leader of their tribe by capturing the lion for him. The lion didn't see the trap and, while proudly prowling through the undergrowth, swishing his long tail, he walked straight into a net of ropes and became entangled in it.

The lion roared and thrashed and clawed and lashed that tail of his, but he couldn't break free. He just became more and more tied up. In frustration, he let out a roar so loud that it shook the forest floor.

The little mouse heard the lion's desperate cry and scurried off in its direction. When she arrived, she saw the lion entwined in the net. His magnificent mane was flat against his head and his eyes were closed.

Quickly, before the hunters returned, the mouse used her sharp teeth to nibble at a thick rope until it snapped in two, then she nibbled another and another, until all the ropes came loose.

The lion opened his eyes and was surprised to see the mouse gnawing on a rope by his paws.

"I was wrong," growled the lion, as he shook away the last few ropes. "I should never have laughed at you. Even though you are small, you have helped me, just as you said you would. Thank you, dear mouse."

And from that day on, the lion and the mouse were friends. The lion was glad that he had helped the mouse – for his kindness had been repaid by his little friend setting him free. 🐭



STORY QUEST!

King Midas and The Mouse and the Lion are about how people have to be careful what they wish for – and how kindness is often repaid!
Can you answer these questions about the stories?

1

Midas wishes for the ability to turn things into gold without thinking about it. Should he have thought more carefully about his wish?

2

Dionysus tries to give Midas advice, but the king ignores it! Who are some people in your life that you can trust for helpful advice?

3

King Midas has to be careful about what he touches when he gets the ability to turn things to gold – or he might hurt himself and others! What are three things you can do to protect yourself and others from COVID-19?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4

After the lion is freed from the net, he thanks the mouse and admits that he was wrong. Why do you think it was a good thing for him to do this?

5

What words would you use to fill in the gaps in these sentences?

1. The lion felt _____ when he was trapped.

2. He felt _____ when the mouse freed him.

6

Can you think of a time in your life when you did something kind and were very glad that you did?

RIDDLE

Q: Why did the mouse whisper in the lion's ear?

A: Because he was telling him a squeak-ret!

ANSWERS: 1. Yes, he should have thought more carefully about what to wish for. 2. Parents or teachers. 3. Wash hands, keep social distancing, obey rules. 4. It was a good thing, because it showed that the lion had learned from the experience and it made the mouse feel appreciated. 5. The lion felt *angry* or *scared* when he was trapped, and *grateful* or *thankful* when he was set free.

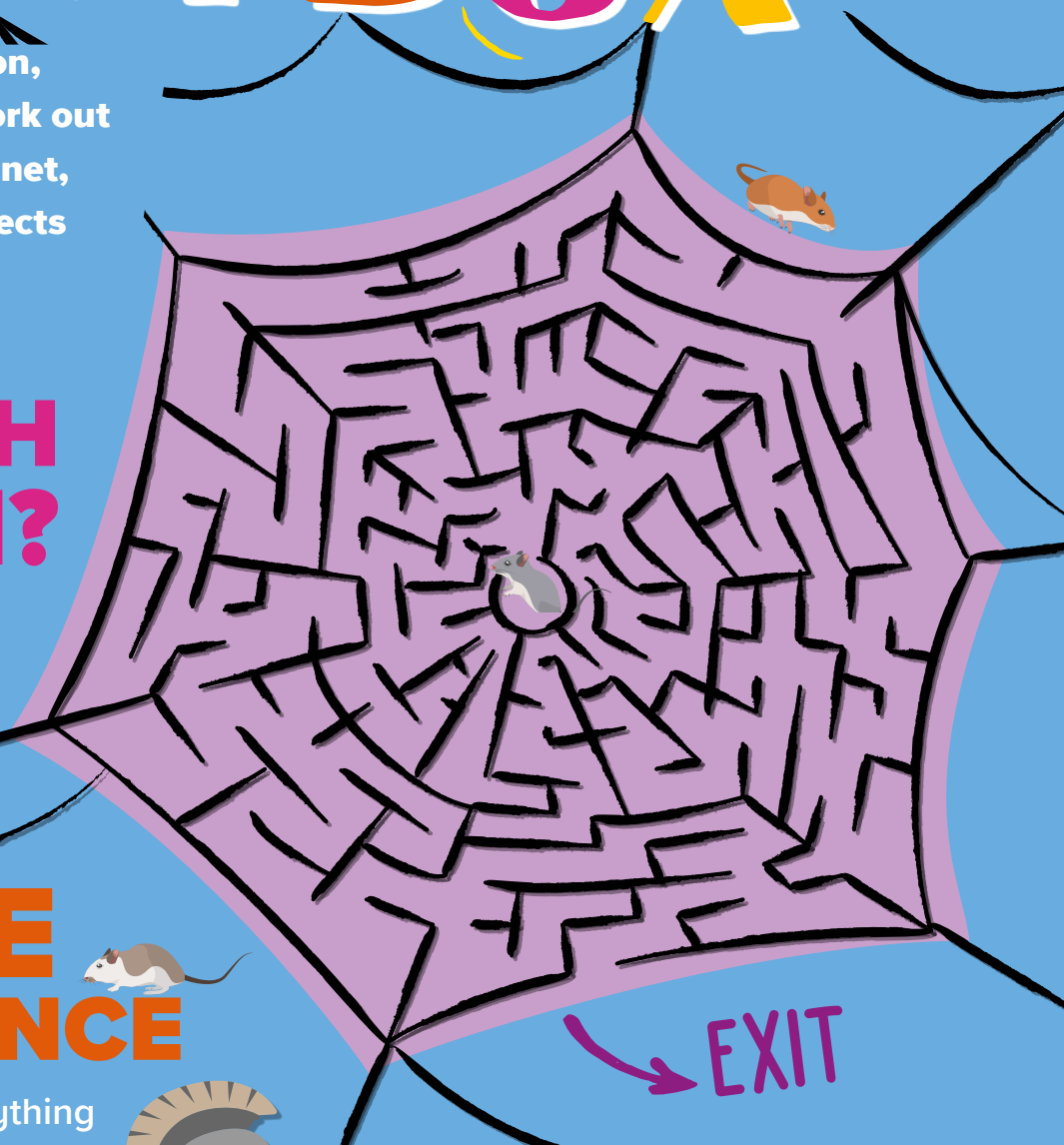
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PLAYBOX

Can you colour in the lion,
find the hidden mice, work out
how to sneak through a net,
and calculate which objects
Midas can turn to gold?

1 WHICH PATH?

Can you work out which
path will safely lead the
mouse through the net?



2 SAFE DISTANCE

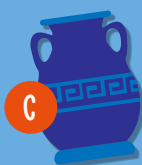
King Midas can touch anything
within 2 metres, and it will
turn to gold! Can you add
up the distances
and find out
which objects
are safe?



$$6 \div 3 + 2 = \underline{\quad} \text{ METRES}$$



$$2 \times 4 - 7 = \underline{\quad} \text{ METRES}$$



$$10 - 4 \div 2 = \underline{\quad} \text{ METRES}$$

3 **MANE** ATTRACTION!

Colour in this picture of the lion!
A lion's fur and mane can be orange, brown, tan or yellow –
use your imagination!



Can you give me a magnificent makeover?

4 **MOUSE** HUNT

There are four brown mice hiding on these pages – can you find them all? Colour in this cheese when you do!



5

GREEK TO ME!

Can you unscramble the **two mixed-up words** in the speech bubble and work out what Princess Zoë is saying?



VELO IS
BETTER
THAN
DOLG!

Answers on next page...

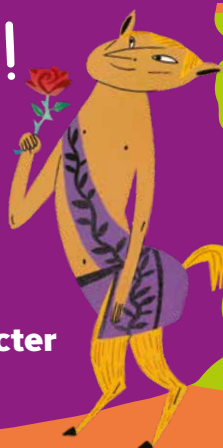
WE ARE HEROES WORDSEARCH

This wordsearch has 10 adjectives that could be used to describe characters in this magazine's stories. Which ones do you think are positive or good, and which ones can cause problems?



BONUS WORD!

King Midas was given a wish after he treated a certain character kindly. Can you find the name of that character in the wordsearch?



Boastful
Careful
Greedy
Helpful
Kind

Loving
Careless
Wise
Rash
Hasty

ANSWERS: 2. Safe Distance – a: 4 metres (safe), b: 1 metre (not safe), c: 3 4 metres (safe).
4. There are 4 mice; 5. Greek to Me! – LOVE and GOLD. Wordsearch – see left; Being careful, helpful, kind, loving and wise can be good, and being boastful, greedy, careless, rash or hasty can cause problems. Bonus Word! – Silenus.

