

## **PROBLEM SOLVING**

### **THE LION AND THE POOR SLAVE**

A hunter trapped a lion in the woods, tied him with a rope, and sent his comrades into the town to buy a chain to tie the strong animal even tighter. The lion was tied to an oak tree. He roared terribly, the trees twisted in his voice, he rumbled with his feet and dug everything around, but he could not free himself. There was a hole near the root of the oak. And in the hole a mouse huddled, frightened by the loud roar. When the lion got tired of roaring and digging with his feet, the mouse went out to see where the loud noise was coming from. She looked around and, seeing nothing else, asked the lion what was going on. The king of animals swung his tail and told her to leave. The mouse got scared and went back to its hole, but it couldn't stand for long and came out again, but the lion chased it away this time as well. The third time the mouse came out of its hole and said softly to the lion, "Tell me, my friend, what do you need? Maybe I can help you." The lion growled, but still explained that the hunters had caught him and then gone in search of a chain to tie him even tighter and take him around the towns for the amusement of the people, who would say that the king of animals could become a laughing stock. Finally, the lion told the mouse that there was no way she, so small and weak, could help him. And the mouse wished he had told her earlier why he was roaring so terribly and that she would save him quickly. Then she threw herself on the lion's neck and, cross, cross, bit the rope. The lion, as soon as he saw himself free, ran away and wondered, "How could this happen? I, such a big and strong lion, king of all animals, a scarecrow for small and big, what did I live to happen to me, so that now I am indebted to a nothing and no mouse!"

### **THE LOST HORSE OF THE WISE OLD MAN**

Once upon a time there was an old farmer of great wisdom, who lived with his son and owned a horse. One day the steed ran away from the place, something that made the neighbors go to console them for their bad luck. But to their words of consolation, the

old farmer replied that the only true thing was that the horse had escaped, and whether that was good or bad luck would be determined by time. Shortly thereafter the horse returned to its owners, accompanied by a beautiful mare. The neighbors ran to congratulate him on his good fortune. However, the old man replied that in reality the only thing that was true was that the horse had returned with the mare, and whether this was good or bad, time would tell. Sometime later the farmer's son tried to ride the mare, still wild, in such a way that he fell off the saddle and broke his leg. According to the doctor, the rupture would give him a permanent limp. The neighbors again came to console both of them, but again the old farmer would rule that all that was really known was that his son had broken his leg, and whether that was good or bad remained to be seen. Finally, the day came when a bloody war broke out in the region. They began to recruit all the young men, but seeing the lameness of the farmer's son, the soldiers who went to recruit him decided that he was not fit for combat, something that caused him not to be recruited and he was able to remain without combat.