



Story Summary

Morgan feels big and strong during the day with his tall hat and his toy sword. But at night, when he dreams that a robber is coming through the woods to take these precious possessions, all of Mom's assurances that "there is no robber" are not enough to ease his fears.

Then Nana brings Morgan a stuffed toy lion, because everybody needs a lion sometimes—and because sometimes, fears in a child's mind can only be conquered with the imagination. That night, Morgan rides a life-sized Night Lion into the woods and together they drive the robber far away.

Sanne Dufft was born in Darmstadt, Germany, in 1974. She spent her school career decorating the margins of her exercise books and drawing portraits of her fellow pupils (who liked it) and her teachers (who didn't always...). She studied Art Therapy in Nürtingen, Germany, and worked with children with a variety of special needs (and special gifts) in Northern Ireland. She has gone on to work for a children's magazine and illustrated her first picture book, *Der Sandelefant* (The Sand Elephant), published by Urachhaus, Germany, in Spring 2015. Sanne lives with her husband and three children in beautiful Tübingen, in the South of Germany.

Additional Resources

Pair this book with:

National Geographic Readers: Lions by Laura Marsh

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Online Videos:

All About Lions for Kids (Freeschool) www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRrrpBewz0g

Discovery Education Kids – Lions Rescue www.youtube.com/watch?v=KI9-jrEm9L8

Facts about Lions:

www.animalfactguide.com/animal-facts/lion/

kids.nationalgeographic.com/

www.pebblego.com if your school has a subscription

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Themes

Courage, self-esteem, family, lions, feelings, character traits

BISAC Codes

JUV010000 JUVENILE FICTION / Bedtime & Dreams

JUV013030 JUVENILE FICTION / Family / Multigenerational

JUV039140 JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Self-Esteem & Self-Reliance

JUV051000 JUVENILE FICTION / Imagination & Play

JUV002150 JUVENILE FICTION / Animals / Lions, Tigers, Leopards, etc.

Curriculum Connections

- Respond to literature through the arts
- Sense of identity, positive self-image
- Science: Life Systems: the needs of living things
- Roles and responsibilities of family members
- Comprehension strategies: predicting, inferring, recognizing fiction vs. nonfiction

Before Reading

Discuss:

- Look at the cover of the book. Do you think it will be an information book or a story? Why? What do you think the story will be about?
- Have you ever been afraid of something? What made you feel better?

During Reading

Discuss:

- Pause on page 8. There are no words on this page. What words could you say/write to tell what is happening here?
- How does the lion change from page 20 to 22? What is the author-illustrator trying to tell us?

After Reading

Discuss:

- How did having a special toy help Morgan be brave? How can having a toy help you be brave at bedtime? Tell about a special toy you take to bed.
- Who are the people in Morgan's family? (Morgan, Nana, Mom, Dad, Lisa) Who are the people in your family? Acknowledge and celebrate different kinds of families.
- What are the roles and responsibilities of each family member, as shown in the book? What are some of the roles and responsibilities of the members of your family? Discuss how roles and responsibilities change over time (Lisa clings to Mom, but Morgan, who is older, is expected to use his imagination and play independently).
- How do the illustrations tell us when it is daytime and when it is night?

Activities

- Plan a Pajama Day, when students will wear their pajamas to class and bring a stuffed toy. During the special day, use some of the activities described below. Provide extra stuffed animals for students who don't bring one.

- Look at the illustration on page 5. What is Mom doing? Imagine what she might be making. Plan to bake cookies on or just before Pajama Day and serve them on the day. (recipe below)
- Using page 2 as inspiration, students describe themselves using the pattern: I have a _____ (noun). My _____ (noun) makes me _____ (adjective). Encourage them to come up with examples not in the story (e.g. I have a bike. My bike makes me fast). Create anchor charts of the nouns and adjectives the children suggest. Children then draw or paint self-portraits like the one shown in the illustration. Beginning writers can write the patterned sentences under their portrait, or an educator can scribe the sentences. Extension: Students who are able can add a sentence in the pattern of "Morgan is wild and fierce and frightening."
- Students draw or paint their toy. They write or dictate a sentence like, "I have a bear. My bear makes me brave."
- Students draw their family. They write or dictate sentences describing a role for each family member (e.g. "My dad cooks supper.").
- Discuss pages 18-19. What do Nana and Morgan say a lion needs? How could we find out what a real lion needs? Provide nonfiction books and websites (see above) for research. Make a list of your findings. Make a chart to compare the needs of lions with the needs of people.
- Chant "Going on a Lion Hunt" together, then go outside hunting. Instead of looking for lions, students are actually looking for dried grass, such as might be found in the savannah, where lions live. Bring some back to add to the art project below.
- Place a toy lion or a photograph of a real lion near the paint center. Along with other colors, mix paint to provide a realistic lion color (try adding brown and white to yellow). Suggest that students might like to paint a picture of a lion, but allow them to paint whatever they wish. Extension: When the paint is dry, students can glue on dried grass to partly cover their lion, as if it is hiding in the grass. Demonstrate laying the grass vertically, with the bottom of the stem at the lower edge of the paper, for a more realistic effect.

- Provide blankets and boxes which the children can use to make caves or other shelters for their stuffed animals
- Animal Charades: Have students sit in a circle, holding their stuffed animals. One student is chosen to begin. He/she secretly chooses one of the animals to act out, and the other students try to guess which one it is.
- Review how the nighttime illustrations in the book have a grey background, while the daytime illustrations have a white background. Using either the book, or their own lives as inspiration, students make two crayon drawings, one depicting a daytime activity and one depicting either a dream, or a nighttime activity (or they could do just one or the other). Students should press hard and leave the background mainly white. The nighttime pictures are then brushed with a grey wash (diluted grey tempera paint applied lightly with a large brush).
- Small group activity: Make folded paper hats www.origamiway.com/origami-hat.shtml and add a feather like Morgan's. The stuffed toys could wear the hats if you don't have paper large enough to make hats for the children.
- Serve the cookies you made, with milk or juice. Announce that it is bedtime and have children rest with their toy, lying down or with heads on tables, as you play *The Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saens, available on YouTube (or just the first movement, which is the March of the Lions). Suggest that students imagine marching lions and hug their stuffed toy to help them be brave.
- Use students' artwork of the day, and photos you have taken during the activities, to create a bulletin board display or class web page entry.

Oatmeal Cookie Recipe *(makes 20-24 small cookies)*

Cream together in a big bowl:

- ½ cup soft butter
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ tsp vanilla

Sift together in another bowl:

- ¾ cup flour
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg

Stir sifted ingredients into creamed mixture and then stir in:

- 1½ cups oatmeal

Write children's names in pencil on the edge of small squares of baking parchment. Drop a spoonful of dough onto each one and flatten. Allow the children to decorate them to suggest the face of a lion (e.g. dark raisins or chocolate chips for eyes and nose, round cereal for ears, pretzels or cereal for a mane). Place parchment squares on baking sheets.

Bake for 12 minutes at 350°F.

