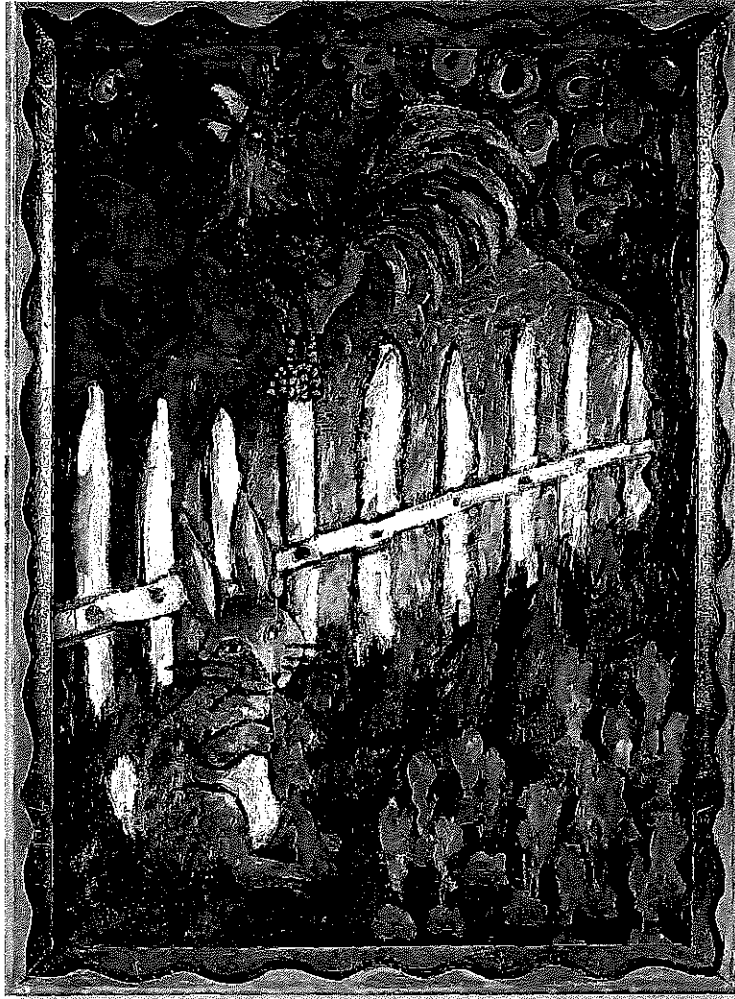


Explore the BIG Question

Brer Rabbit

Retold by Julius Lester

Brer Lion



Brer Rabbit was in the woods one afternoon when a great wind came up. It blew on the ground and it blew in the tops of the trees. It blew so hard that Brer Rabbit was afraid a tree might fall on him, and he started running.

Set a Purpose for Reading

Read the entertaining folktale "Brer Rabbit and Brer Lion" to see how Brer Rabbit outsmarts Brer Lion.

Dawn Raid, 1995. Christian Pierre. Acrylic on masonite, 20 x 30 in. Private collection.

View the Art What does the painting tell you about the rabbit? How might the painting add to your understanding of the story?

He was trucking through the woods when he ran smack into Brer Lion. Now, don't come telling me ain't no lions in the United States. Ain't none here now. But back in yonder times, all the animals lived everywhere. The lions and tigers and elephants and foxes and what 'nall run around with each other like they was family. So that's how come wasn't unusual for Brer Rabbit to run up on Brer Lion like he done that day.

"What's your hurry, Brer Rabbit?"

"Run, Brer Lion! There's a hurricane coming."

Brer Lion got scared. "I'm too heavy to run, Brer Rabbit. What am I going to do?"

"Lay down, Brer Lion. Lay down! Get close to the ground!"

Brer Lion shook his head. "The wind might pick me up and blow me away."

"Hug a tree, Brer Lion! Hug a tree!"

"But what if the wind blows all day and into the night?"

"Let me tie you to the tree, Brer Lion. Let me tie you to the tree."

Brer Lion liked that idea. Brer Rabbit tied him to the tree and sat down next to it. After a while, Brer Lion got tired of hugging the tree.

"Brer Rabbit? I don't hear no hurricane."

Brer Rabbit listened. "Neither do I."

"Brer Rabbit? I don't hear no wind."

Brer Rabbit listened. "Neither do I."

BQ BIG Question

What is funny about a rabbit tying a lion to a tree?


"Brer Rabbit? Ain't a leaf moving in the trees."

Brer Rabbit looked up. "Sho' ain't."

"So untie me."

"I'm afraid to, Brer Lion."

Brer Lion began to roar. He roared so loud and so long, the foundations of the Earth started shaking. Least that's what it seemed like, and the other animals came from all over to see what was going on.

When they got close, Brer Rabbit jumped up and began strutting around the tied-up Brer Lion. When the animals saw what Brer Rabbit had done to Brer Lion, you'd better believe it was the forty-eleventh of Octorerarry before they messed with him again. 

BQ **BIG Question**

What lesson is Brer Lion learning?

BQ **BIG Question**

Why might you read this folktale—for fun, for information, or for understanding?

Emma's Lion, 1994. Christian Pierre. Acrylic on masonite, 16 x 20 in. Private collection.



After You Read

Respond and Think Critically

1. Use your own words to describe the most important events in the story of Brer Rabbit and Brer Lion. [Summarize]
2. What personality traits does Brer Rabbit have that help him get the better of a much larger animal? Explain. [Analyze]
3. If you could add a moral, or lesson, to the end of "Brer Rabbit and Brer Lion," what would it be? Support your answer with details from the story. [Conclude]
4. Humor plays a large role in many folktales. Identify three details or aspects of this folktale that you found humorous. Which detail was funniest to you? [Identify]



Writing

Write a Summary Write a one-paragraph summary of the folktale. You may want to begin your summary with this topic sentence:

You would think that a lion would be smarter than a rabbit, but _____.

Remember that when you write a summary, you include the most important events and details in the story. You use your own words. Your summary should show that you understand the meaning of the story.

Learning Objectives

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In studying this text, you will focus on the following objectives:

Reading: Summarizing.

Writing: Writing a summary.



Literature Online

Unit Resources For additional skills practice, go to glencoe.com and enter QuickPass code GL29763u2.