

Lucy the Lion

(A story about still having to go to school and coping with worry)

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Early one morning, Lucy the Lion woke up and padded out onto the grassland in front of her home. It was already hot and it was only early. It had been a long, hot summer and the water holes of the pride lands were beginning to dry up. Some of the animals who lived in the pride lands were becoming thirsty.



Lucy's mum, Layla, was the queen of the pride and it was her job to keep all the animals in the land safe. She instructed all the creatures of the land to stay at home and rest in the shade so that they could save their energy until they had more water.



However, Lucy's mum, Layla, and Layla's brothers and sisters couldn't stay at home and rest. They had to go and find water to bring back to the land for all the other animals. They couldn't leave Lucy at home on her own, so she had to go too.



They went in search of water whilst the other animals sheltered. At first Lucy was angry and didn't think it was fair that she had to go with her mum in the hot sun. She wanted to be like the other animals and stay in the shade at home. Eventually, the lions met a group of thirsty elephants also looking for water and they agreed to look together.



Amongst the group was a young elephant called Ernie. The grown-up lions and elephants decided it would be better to leave Lucy and Ernie to shelter under a palm tree with a Wise Monkey, whilst they kept searching for more water.

Lucy didn't know the Wise Monkey or Ernie or the palm tree she had been left under and felt very worried about being left behind. What if they became thirsty? When would her mum come back? She wished she was back at home sheltering like the other animals.



The Wise Monkey swung down from the top of the tree and told Lucy and Ernie that their parents were extremely brave to go out into the hot sun to look for more water for all the animals who were sheltering at home.

Lucy hadn't thought of it like that. She began to realise how lucky she was to have such a brave, kind and caring mum. She realised that she had to be brave too so that her mum could go and help all the other animals. She hoped that her mum, and the other animals looking for water, would be okay and come back soon. Whenever Lucy felt worried about her mum, she remembered how brave her mum was for trying to help all the creatures of the land and this helped Lucy to feel brave too.

After a while, Lucy saw her mother coming towards her across the plains, followed by all the other lions and elephants. She felt so relieved. Her mother told her that they had found an enormous lake hidden in some trees. Layla had asked the elephants to suck up water from the lake into their trunks like straws and transport it back to their homeland.



When they arrived, Lucy ran ahead of the group. She was so excited to tell all the sheltering animals what the lions and elephants had done and about all the water they had found! The elephants emptied their trunks into the dry lake beds and provided lots of water for everyone. All the creatures were so grateful to Layla, Lucy and all of the other lions and elephants for being so brave. Lucy felt so proud of her mum. That evening, Lucy enjoyed playing with her friends by the lake and introduced them to her new friend, Ernie. When she finally went to bed, she gave her mum a big hug and was happy that everything was right in the pride lands.



Questions to ask children

- 1) How do you think Lucy felt when she first heard about the water running low?
- 2) Why do you think Lucy felt angry about having to do something different to her friends?
- 3) Why do you think Lucy's mum had the job of finding the water? Why didn't all the animals help?
- 4) Do you think there was anything the Wise Monkey could have done to help Lucy feel safer when she was left with him?
- 5) Why do you think Lucy and Ernie became friends?
- 6) What do you think helped Lucy start to feel less angry?
- 7) Why do you think Lucy felt proud of her mum? Do you think Lucy did anything that might have made her mum feel proud of her?