

Title: The Lion and the Brave Mouse

Voiceover story of ‘The Lion and the Brave Mouse’:

One day there were some mice. The weather was great and the sun was shining. The mice all got together to play in the woods. Suddenly they heard a lion roar. All the mice fled. Except one.

Nora:

My name is Nora and I'm from Syria. I'm ten. My village is Alsa'en in the province of Homs. We fled to Homaida. Then from Homaida to Zaatari in Jordan.

This is me with my father and mother and our family. I have four brothers and two sisters. I'm the middle child. I'll show you where my sister and I sleep in this tent.

Back in Syria I used to have a room that I shared with my sister. My brothers shared a room and the eldest had a room of his own.

We had a kitchen, a bathroom and a living room. We had a big farm, a two-storey house and an outbuilding.

We also had fields where we grew crops. My brothers and I had plants from the garden in little pots. At harvest time we helped our parents harvest the olives.

I embroidered this for the Feast of the Sacrifice. My mother taught me to embroider. This is where I ran out of thread. I embroidered this red rose.

I want to be an artist later and start a school. An art school, so children can learn art and drawing. I'll also teach them new games. I'll show you what I drew on the tent. Here I drew a rose. And this is my cat, Razan. This here. I had a small white kitten. Actually it was orange with white stripes.

Interviewer:

What happened to it?

Nora:

It died and stayed behind. A plane came and fired a rocket at us. The building was damaged and we ran away. But the cat was dead.

The Lion and the Brave Mouse – English Dialogue List

Nora:

Here I come. Where are you? Abderazak, I can see you. Come on out. Found you.

Interviewer:

Do you remember the day your father told you: We have to flee now?

Nora:

I do. We were sad because we had to leave everything. We couldn't take anything with us.

Interviewer:

What do you miss?

Nora:

All my stuff, my toys and my room.

Interviewer:

Was there nothing you could take?

Nora:

One small case for me and my sisters. We had to leave everything and go. We left in trucks. We left everything behind and came here.

Interviewer:

How long did the journey take?

Nora:

Very long.

Interviewer:

How long?

Nora:

I don't remember.

The Lion and the Brave Mouse – English Dialogue List

Interviewer:

A day and a night?

Nora:

Yes.

Interviewer:

Were you afraid while you were in that truck?

Nora:

Yes.

Interviewer:

What were you afraid of?

Nora:

That a plane would shoot at us.

Interviewer:

Did you hear the sound of bombs?

Nora:

Yes. I heard very loud bangs. Really loud.

Interviewer:

Do you feel good here in Jordan?

Nora:

No.

Interviewer:

Why not?

The Lion and the Brave Mouse – English Dialogue List

Nora:

Jordan is not like Syria.

Interviewer:

Why do you love Syria so much?

Nora:

Everything I love is there. I loved our neighbours there. And my girlfriends and everything.

Interviewer:

Do you feel safe here now?

Nora:

Yes. I'm starting to calm down now on the inside. Praise God.

Voiceover story:

The mouse said, "I'll go see why the lion is roaring." He saw that the lion was stuck in a net. The lion said, "Quick, cut me loose before the hunter gets here." The mouse gnawed at the net with its sharp teeth and set the lion free.

Mother:

Get me a knife, would you?

Nora:

Isn't it ready yet? I'm hungry.

Mother:

Stir, Nora. Stir.

Nora:

This is my new cat now. I found it when I went to the shop with my brothers. A girl was holding it and saying: Who wants this cat? I said: I'll have it. It was a tiny kitten then.

Television news:

... heavy air raids...

Nora:

Some Dutch people came to give us music lessons. I began to really love music. In school we learned a song about Syria. We made up the words ourselves. Then it became a song and we sang it.

*Syria is a paradise
God, protect Syria
we will not forget her trees and rivers
Syria will be in our hearts forever*

Voiceover story:

The lion wanted to grab the mouse and said, "I'm going to eat you." The mouse trembled and said, "But I saved you from the net and from the hunter." Then the hunter came. The lion roared and the hunter ran away. The lion thanked the mouse. The mouse said, "If you need me again, just holler."

Interviewer:

Do you think of yourself as the mouse or as the lion?

Nora:

As the mouse, because he's small and scared of everything. But the strong lion that scares all the animals couldn't set himself free. When the mouse set him free, the mouse felt really brave. He felt he was stronger than all the other animals.

Nora:

I want to be an artist when I grow up. I'll open an art school for girls. Without boys. I'll also open a shop so they can buy things. And when the children are hungry, I'll give them food for free. I'll also make a garden with a lean-to. Then they can make their drawings in the shade.

The school will be in Syria and it's for all Syrian girls. I will give them red caps and shaded sunglasses. They'll be wearing black aprons with red strings. All the girls will wear skirts. I'll have my pupils draw an art flag with a brush on it and a palette. They will shout: Long live art!

The Lion and the Brave Mouse – English Dialogue List

On-screen text:

The war in Syria has already made millions of children flee from their houses.
Lots of children have bad memories about that. Art and music sometimes helps them deal with it.