

The Tiger's Teacher

Who learned the most – the cat or the tiger?

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Tiger was strong. Tiger was fast. But Tiger was loud and **clumsy**. With all of his strength and speed, he still had trouble catching small animals to eat. Every day, Tiger left his home to hunt. Many nights, Tiger came home with no food to eat, and he often went hungry.

One morning as Tiger went out to hunt, he saw Cat chase and catch a mouse. Cat was fast and **graceful**. Cat moved quietly and easily caught her prey. “If only I could move like that,” thought Tiger.

He went to Cat. “Cousin,” started Tiger. “Would you give me lessons so I might learn to move as you do?”

“How do I know that you will not use the skills I teach you to hunt me for your dinner?” asked Cat.

“My dear cousin,” said the Tiger. “Do you think I would ever hurt a family member? How could I ever hurt someone I am related to? If you help me, I will become your **protector**. I will never allow anyone to **harm** you.”

Usage Tip

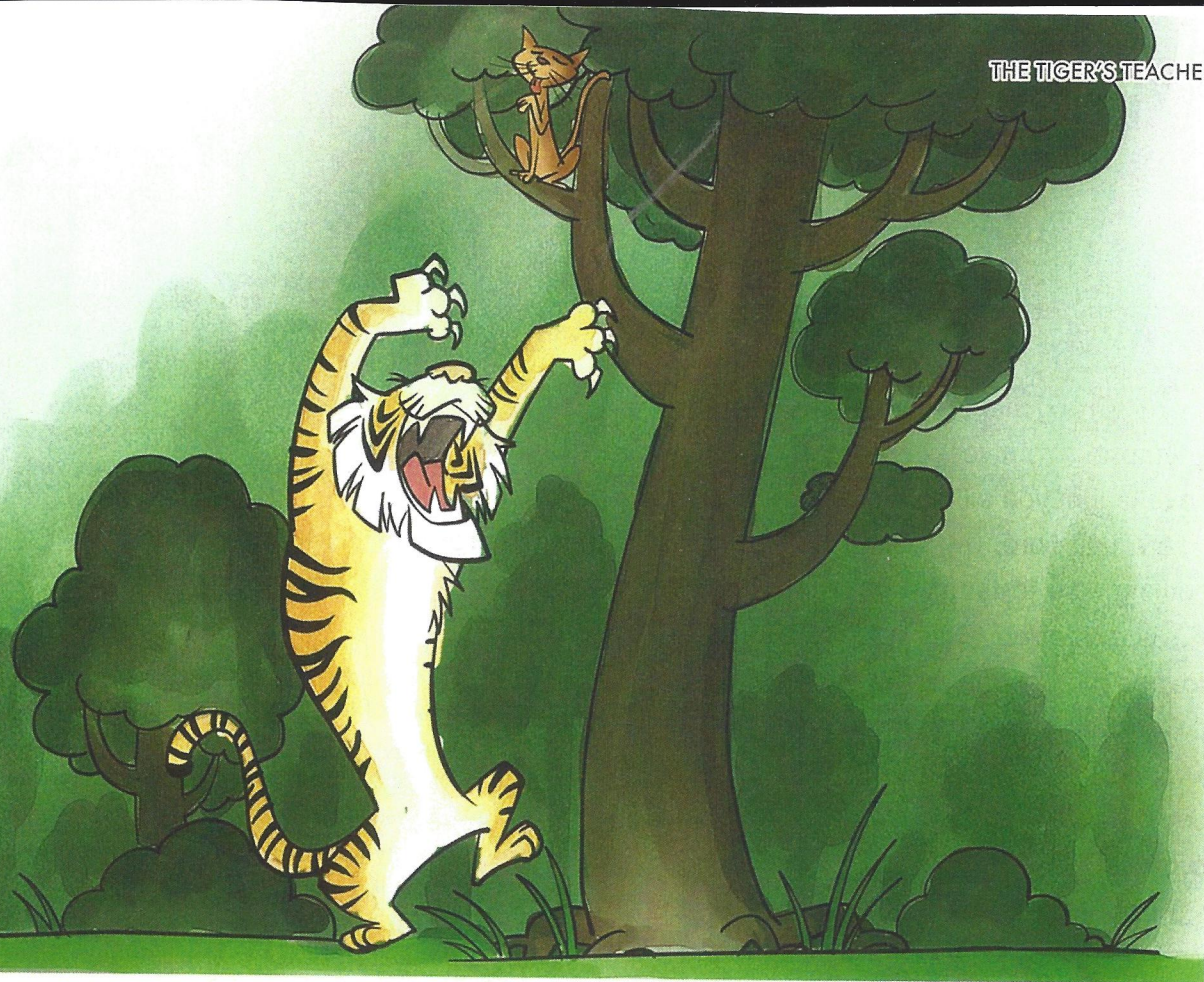
*Many nights, Tiger came home with no food to eat, and he often **went hungry**.* (p. 38, line 5)

句中 go/went 可作連綴動詞表達「處於…的狀態」，後面接形容詞。

• The Smith family is very poor, so the children often go hungry.

Your turn

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“Become my teacher! If I ever harm a hair on your head, may I be **cursed** by all animals. May I go hungry forever if I ever allow you to come to harm,” **appealed** Tiger. Tiger did his best to look **truthful** to Cat.

Finally Cat was convinced to help Tiger. Cat taught Tiger to do **gymnastics** and to move easily and quietly. Cat was a good teacher and coach. She taught Tiger move after move. She did her best to teach Tiger all she knew. She kept only one trick to herself. That was the art of climbing trees.

Talk About It

- Do you think Cat knew from the beginning not to trust Tiger? Explain.
 - Yes, I think Cat knew from the beginning because ... / No, I don't think Cat knew from the beginning because ...
- Why was Cat a good teacher?
 - Cat was a good teacher because ...
- Has anything ever gotten in your way of learning all you can? What did you do?
 - ... has gotten in my way and I ...

Tiger was a good student. He learned every trick that was taught. Before long he was strong, fast, quiet and smooth in his movements. He was ready to become a great hunter. He was ready to eat. Tiger looked at Cat. Cat looked delicious.

Cat saw Tiger **staring** at her. Tiger smiled and showed his teeth. Tiger's mouth began to water, and it **drooled** down the side of his mouth. ▶

Usage Tip

He was ready to become a great hunter. He was ready to eat. Tiger looked at Cat. Cat looked delicious. (p. 39, line 3)

此段表述中連用了好幾個短句，這是說故事時常用的表現方式，為了強調出動作的進展及變化。

- The little bird wanted to fly. He flapped his wings and jumped. He started falling. Then he began flying high in the sky.

Your turn

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Cat knew that Tiger could not be trusted anymore. “Your lessons are over,” said Cat. “I have taught you all that I can.”

“Are you sure, my wonderful teacher? Is there nothing else to teach me?” As he talked, Tiger’s claws **extended**. Tiger opened his **jaws** wide. He **leaped** through the air. My, Tiger was fast.

Cat barely got away. Instead of running, Cat jumped into a tree and climbed as high as she could go. “It is a good thing I never taught you to climb trees,” said Cat.

Tiger leaped and **growled**. He clawed at the bark. He tried every new skill Cat had taught him. But – he could not climb the tree.

Cat climbed from branch to branch and from tree to tree until she left Tiger far behind her.

Tiger was **ashamed**. He had let his hunger and **greed** get in the way of learning the last and best lesson his teacher could have taught him.

Never let anything get in the way of learning all you can. 🐾

Usage Tip

My, Tiger was fast. (p. 40, line 7)

句首的 **my** 是感嘆詞可以表達驚訝、讚嘆或不悅，此時後面若接名詞，必須在 **my** 後面加逗號，否則 **my** 會被當作所有格。

- My, Bobby can run like the wind.

Your turn

Word Bank

clumsy (adj) [ˈklʌmzi] 笨拙的，手腳不靈活的

The **clumsy** boy dropped all the dishes he was carrying to the kitchen.

graceful (adj) [ˈɡresfəl] 優雅的；優美的

Mary was always **graceful** and grew up to become a dancer.

protector (n) [prəˈtektə] 保護者；捍衛者

Albert is his little sister’s **protector** whenever they go outside.

harm (v) [hɑrm] 傷害；損害；危害

Johnny didn’t **harm** anyone even though he knocked a couple of kids down.

curse (v) [kɜːs] 咒罵；詛咒

The snake is the most **curse**d of all the animals.

appeal (v) [əˈpi:l] 懇求；呼籲

The city **appealed** for help after it was destroyed by the typhoon.

truthful (adj) [ˈtruθfəl] 誠實的；講真話的

Be careful of what Jessica tells you because she isn’t very **truthful**.

stare (v) [steɪ] 盯；凝視

Frannie **stared** at the cake for an hour before finally cutting herself a piece.

extend (v) [ɪkˈstend] 伸展，延伸；擴展

After sitting for two hours, Jake **extended** his legs and stood up.

jaw (n) [dʒɔ] 頷；顎；下巴

The lion opened his **jaws** wide and let out a loud cry.

leap (v) [li:p] 跳；跳躍

Stephen **leaped** over the fence easily.

ashamed (adj) [əˈʃemd] 羞愧的；感到難為情的

Ian felt **ashamed** for lying to his mother.

More Information

prey (n) [preɪ] 獵物

gymnastics (n) [dʒɪmˈnæstɪks] 體操

drool (v) [dru:l] 流口水

growl (v) [graʊl] 低吼

greed (n) [ɡri:d] 貪心

Word Bank Focus

truth (n) [truθ] 真相

Tell me the **truth**. Did you cheat on the test or not?

truthfully (adv) [ˈtruθfəli] 老實地；誠實地

Please answer me **truthfully**. Do you love me or not?