



The Courageous Lion

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Level 2

Story Description

For most of his life, the lion has been teased and mistreated at the zoo. Tired of living there, the lion plans to escape, a decision that takes him on an adventure through the city.

Pre-Reading Vocabulary and Phonics

Torrential

tu-ren-sh-ul

*The rain was so heavy it was **torrential**.*

Crept

c-rep-t

*The lion **crept** past the man so he wouldn't make a sound.*

Kindness

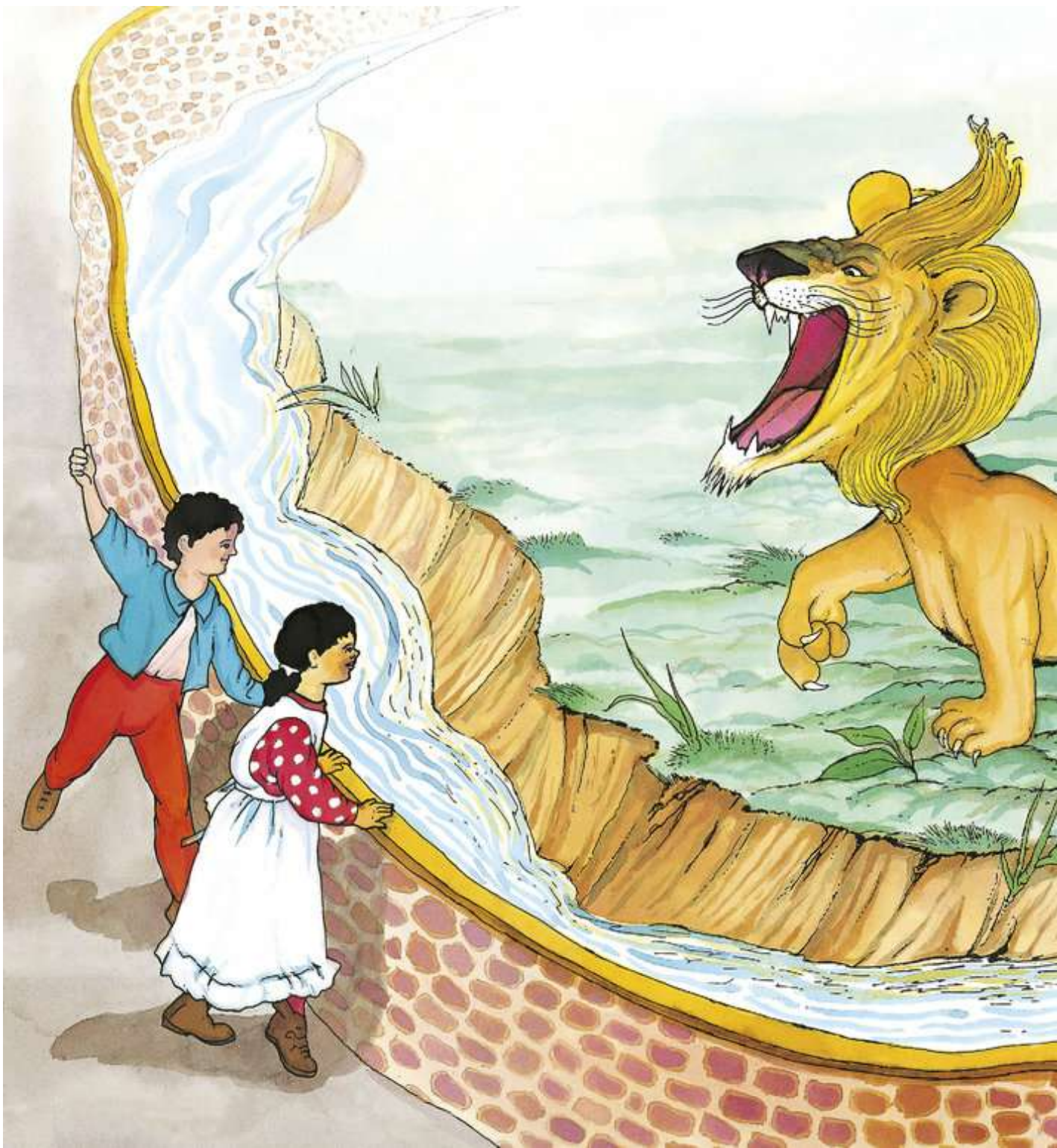
k-ai-n-d-nuss

*The lion was touched by the boy's **kindness**.*

Alive

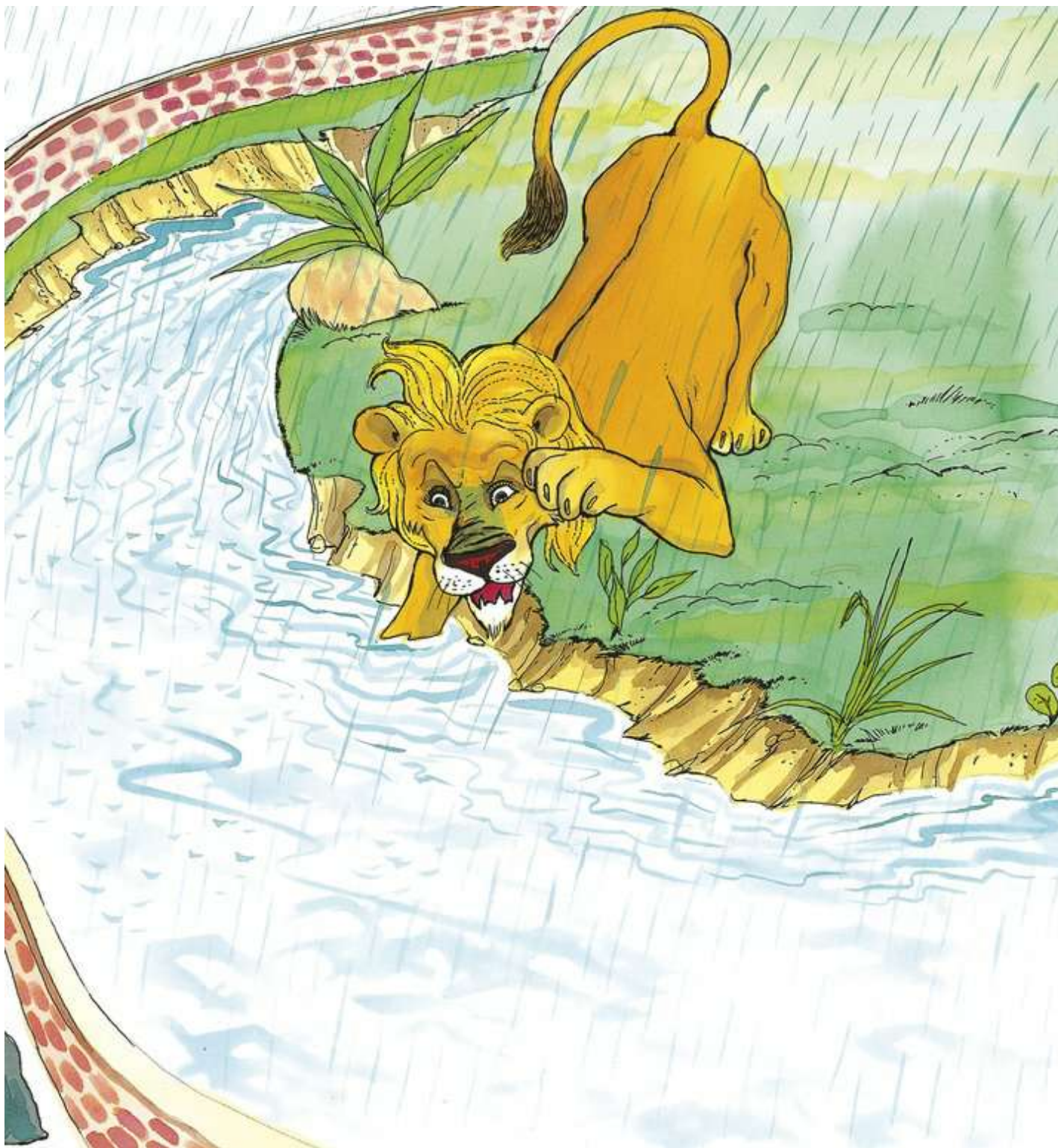
a-l-ai-v

*For the first time, he felt **alive**.*



There was a lion that lived in a zoo. The people would stare at and tease him.

The lion was tired of being mistreated. He wanted to leave and find a new home.



One day there was torrential rain and everyone ran for cover. Most people went home from the zoo.

The lion felt the depth of the water around his enclosure. He could not feel the bottom. He was desperate to escape, but he did not know if he could make it out.



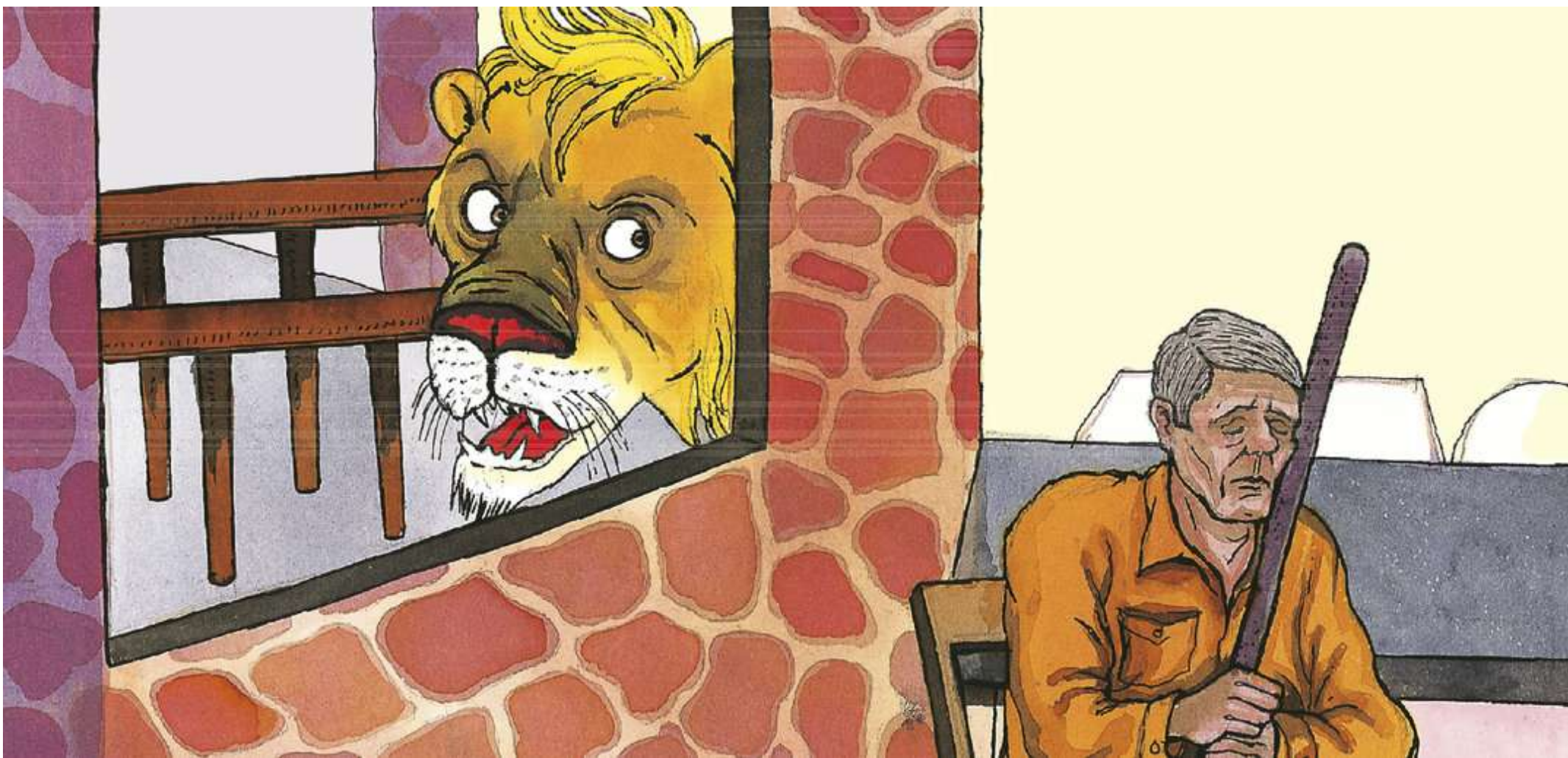
The lion jumped in the pool and floated with the current. He paddled with his paws until he found a patch of dry grass. He lifted himself out and climbed the fence, frightening some of the zoo visitors.

He ran as fast as he could through the zoo, determined not to be captured.

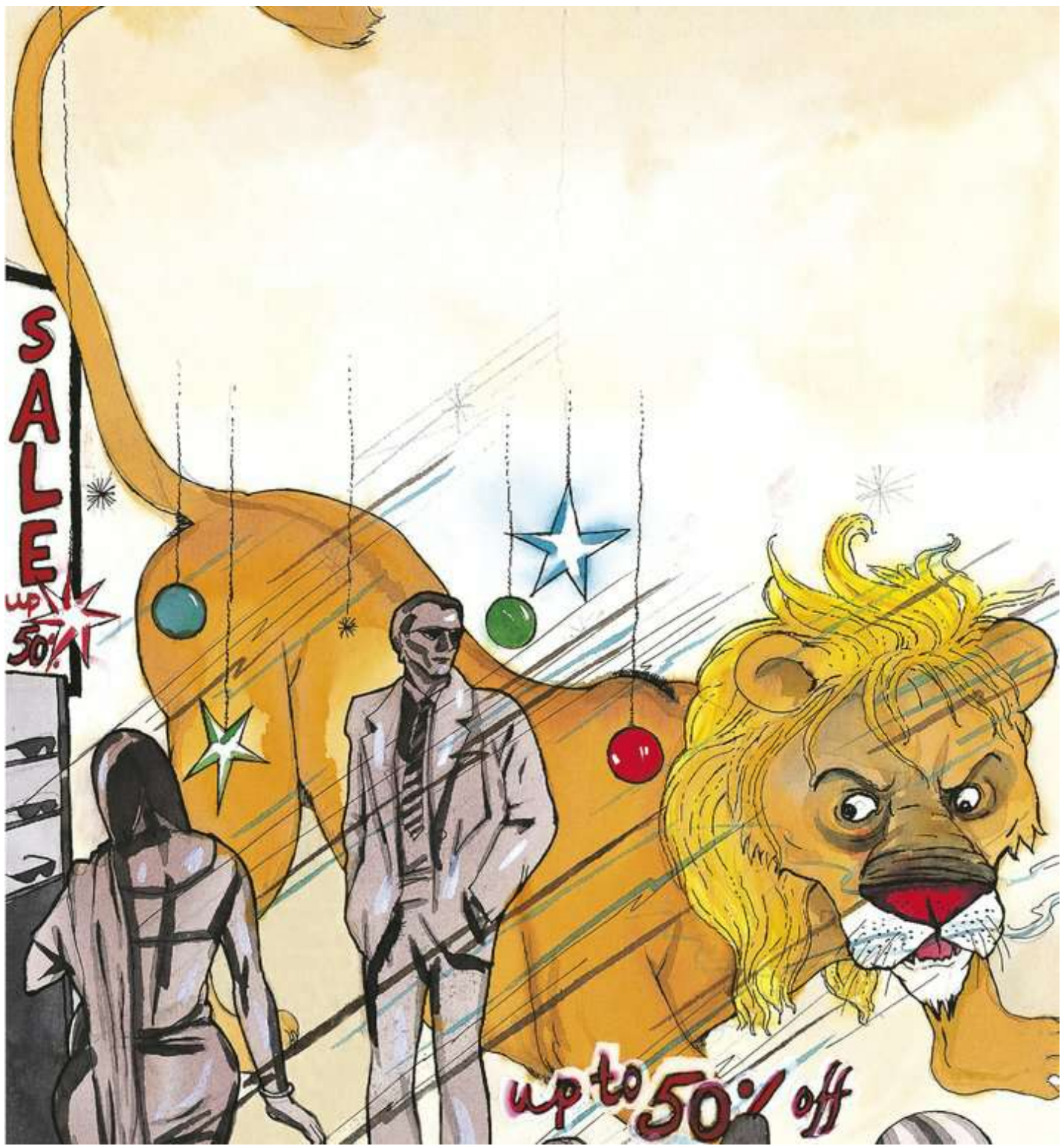


He walked past several enclosures, including the bear's cage. He saw a bear relaxing, and the bear was not surprised to see the lion.

"Listen carefully to me," said the bear. " Don't think you'll escape from this zoo. Wherever you go, they'll find you."

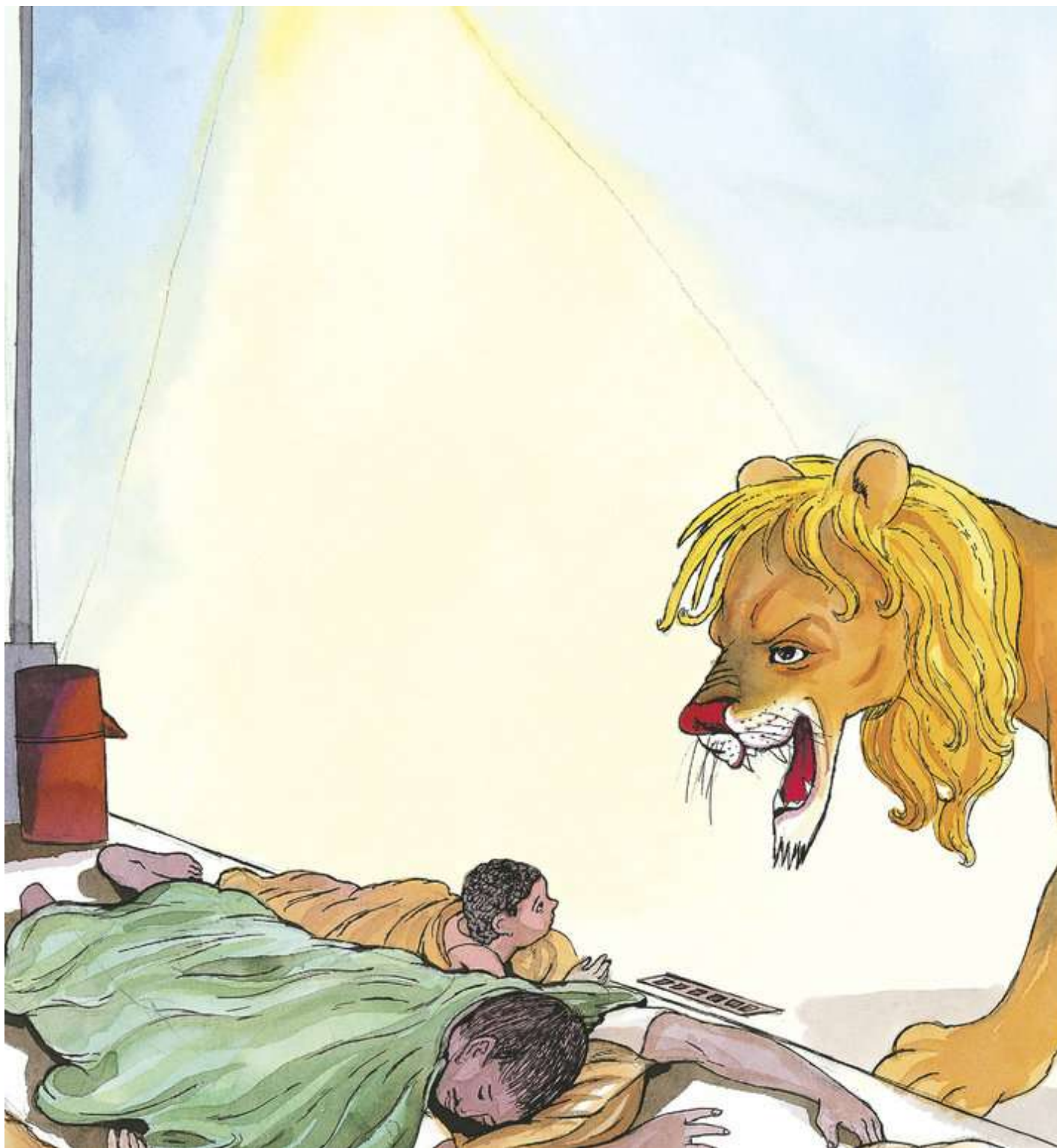


The lion crept past the visitor centre and saw one of the cleaners asleep. Without hesitating, the lion bounced through the room and sneaked past the man. From there he ran out of the main entrance and into some fields.



The lion went from the fields to some streets lined with advertisements and shops. He saw the city.

There was a lot of noise which annoyed him, making him want to hide.



The lion found a bridge and crawled under it to hide. Once there, he found people sleeping.

His presence scared them a little, but once they realised the lion was peaceful, they relaxed.



"They treated you very badly in that zoo," said one of the boys. "You deserve a new home. Stay with us anytime."

The lion appreciated the affection and the kindness of the strangers.

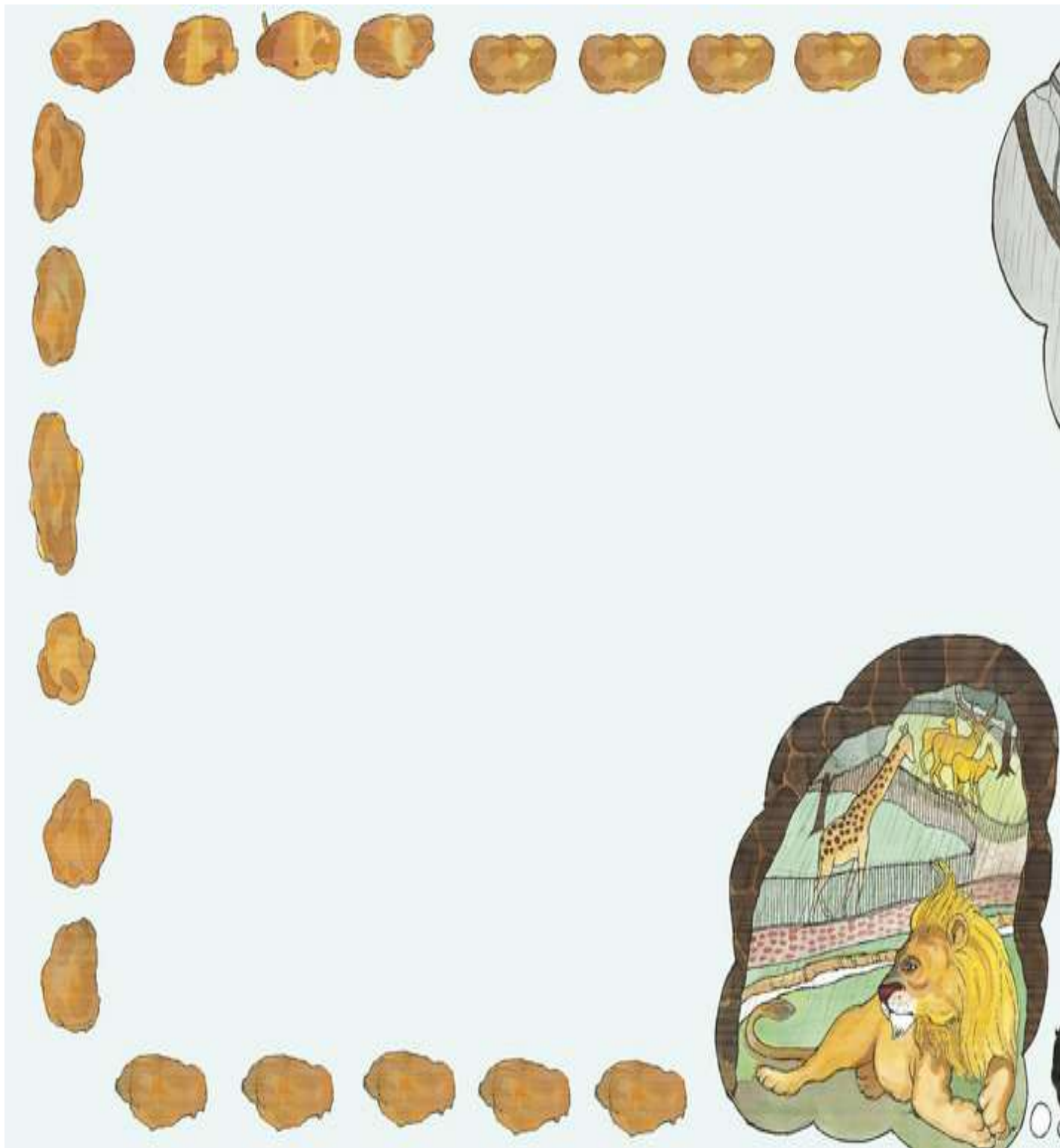


But the lion could not stay for long. He felt hungry and thirsty. He found a nice little house and went inside. In the kitchen, a pot of stew and a drink of water was on the table. He ate it all up, and felt very tired soon afterwards.



Upstairs he found a woman asleep in her bed. Underneath the bed, there was a lot of space. He wondered if he kept still and slept, the woman would not notice he was there.

So he curled up underneath her bed, and slept like those people under the bridge.



The next morning, very early, the lion woke up.

He quickly left the house, not disturbing the woman, and he made his way through the fields, looking for a new home.

He didn't know what would happen, but for the first time in his life, he felt alive.

Post-Reading Questions

Why did the lion want to **escape** from the zoo?

Describe the lion's **actions** as he swam, climbed the fence and escaped into the city.

Re-read page 7. Ask: *What does the bear **warn** the lion of?*

Re-read page 11. Ask: *What does the boy **offer** to the lion?*

Re-read page 14. Ask: *What is known about the lion's **future**?*

Do **you** think the lion will **not** get caught?

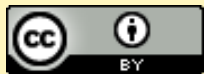
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The Courageous Lion

(English)

For most of his life, the lion has been teased and mistreated at the zoo. Tired of living there, the lion plans to escape, a decision that takes him on an adventure through the city.

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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