Becoming A Storyteller
with Peter Kors

A QUICK HOW-TO
Here is an acting experience called “Be in a Story Together.” It highlights a *Fable* —a story that teaches a lesson.

1 Peter tells the story “*The Lion and the Mouse*” from *Aesop’s Fables*. In this story, a Mouse meets a Lion who could eat him. They have a conversation (dialogue), and the Lion thinks the Mouse is too small to have much value, so he frees him. They go their separate ways. Later, the Lion gets caught in a trap. The Mouse frees him by eating through the rope that binds the Lion, who is very thankful that the little Mouse saved his life. They become friends. **Retell this story** using your own words.

2 The Mouse and the Lion use **dialogue** in the story. Can you remember any of their dialogue? If so, perform the dialogue (conversation) you can remember using a different voice for each character.

3 Add movements that describe both the Lion and the Mouse as you re-tell the story.

THINK ABOUT IT
How would you describe the Lion? The Mouse? Can you recall any of the dialogue that was spoken in the story? What is the lesson that this fable was teaching?

DIG DEEPER
To learn more about storytelling, check out The Music Center’s Artsource Curriculum: “We Tell Stories.”
www.musiccenter.org/education/teacher-resources/artsource-curriculum/

TRY THIS CHALLENGE
Think of another story you like. Select one that has only two to four characters. Think of the Beginning of the story, then the Middle section, and finally the Ending. Retell the story as you remember it, adding dialogue between the characters. If possible, tell it to another person. Ask them if they could think of a lesson that the story teaches. If there is one, then your story will be a Fable.

NEW WORDS

Fable
A story that teaches a lesson.

Character
A person or animal in a novel, play or movie.

This fable features two characters - the Lion and the Mouse.

Dialogue
The words that the characters speak to each other - a conversation.