



BETWEEN THE LIONS

Language Arts
Literacy
Reading



20 30-min. Programs
Grades PK-2
Website
No Teacher's Guide

BETWEEN THE LIONS, a PBS children's series, is named for a family of lions—Theo, Cleo, Lionel, and Leona—who run a library like no other on earth. The doors “between the lions” swing open to reveal a magical place where characters pop off the pages of books, vowels sing, and words take on a life of their own. The series combines innovative puppetry, animation, live action, and music to achieve its educational mission of helping young children learn to read. The backbone of the series is a comprehensive literacy curriculum geared to beginning readers ages 4 to 7. Developed with reading and literacy experts from across the country, the curriculum emphasizes both the pleasures and the value of reading, as well as the skills needed for learning how to read.

801. Ruby Sings the Blues & The Camel Dances — A very loud girl learns to sing, and Leona and a camel (and Lionel?) discover the joy of dancing.

Key word: loud, dance

Target sound: l, d

New vocabulary: concert, dance, jazz singer, hollered, loud, quiet, quieter, saxophonist, shouted, singing, volume, yelled, applause, arabesques, audience, ballet dancer, camel, critic, dancer, desire, grace, movement, pirouettes, practiced, recital, relevés

802. Mole and the Baby Bird & Owen and Mzee — Lionel and Leona find out why some animals aren't meant to be pets, and how some animals develop surprising friendships.

Key word: fly

Target sound: fl

New vocabulary: feelings and emotions (care, cried, feel, dejected, happy, miserable, sad); animal-related (baby bird, cage, die, feed, food, fluttered, fly, flying, grew, help, mole, nest, pet, wild, wind, wings)
Featured vocabulary: crocodile, hippo, tortoise, turtle

New vocabulary: environment and weather (beach, home, nature park, reef, river, storm, water, wave); friendship (best friend, friends)

803. Stop That Pickle & Chicks and Salsa — The Lions and a sandwich chase a runaway pickle in the library, and Cleo's “Book and a Meal” show leads to a lively fiesta.

Key word: garden

Target sound: g (hard)

Featured concept: punctuation (exclamation point, question mark, period, contractions)
New vocabulary: food related (almonds, apple, bake shop, brine, deli, doughnut/donut, food, grape juice, hungry, ice cream cone, jar, pickle, pretzel, raisins, sandwich); actions and movement (caught, chase, collided, fast, rolled, shouted, slowest, stop)

New vocabulary: food (aromas, avocados, beans, chilies, chips, cilantro, dice, garden, garlic, guacamole, lemons, ingredients, nachos, onions, salsa, scallions, peppers, limes, slice, spice, tomatoes); descriptive words (enticing, savory, Southwestern, succulent, sumptuous, spicy)

804. Are You a Snail? & Wonderful Worms — The Information Hen helps some confused creatures determine whether they are snails or slugs, and a missing pet worm leads to an all-out search in the library.

Key word: worms

Target sound: w

New vocabulary: burrows, cool, dark, damp, dig, earthworms, fat, garden, roots, soil, squeeze, tunnel, wiggly, wiggling, worm

805. Stone Soup & Bee-bim Bop! —

Lionel and Leona discover that you can make delicious soup from a stone and enjoy a popular Korean meal called Bee-bim bop.

Key word: soup, bop

Target sound: s, b

New vocabulary: delicious, food, pot, salad, salmon, salsa, salt, satisfied, satsumas, sausage, savory, schnitzel, simmering, slurp, soup, soy sauce, succotash, tasty, bubbling, chop, dinner, eggs, flip, hop, hungry, hurry, kitchen, mix, mop, rice, shop, steaming, supper

806. Bein' with You This Way & How to Be — The Lions and friends sing about the ways they look alike and different, and describe the many traits that make a person a person.

Key word: you

Target sound: y

New vocabulary: descriptive words (blue, brown, curly, different, fabulous, furry, great, large, long, nice, same, shiny, short, small, straight, terrific, thick, thin); the body (arms, eyes, hair, hands, fingers, nose, skin, toes)

Featured vocabulary: animals (bear, dog, monkey, person, snake, spider, turtle); traits (brave, charming, curious, creative, friendly, patient)

New vocabulary: bask, beg, build, catch, copy, creep, dance, eat, fetch, growl, hibernate, hide, move, slither, swing, wait

BETWEEN THE LIONS (Continued)

807. No One Told the Aardvark & Sea Horse — Leona pretends to be different animals, and tries the sea horse’s trick of camouflage in the library. Introduces vocabulary related to animals and their traits and behaviors.

Key word: fish

Target sound: f

Featured vocabulary: aardvark, animal, boa constrictor, chimpanzee, crab, elephant, fish, horse, kangaroo, plover, raccoon, snails, snake, termites, whale

New vocabulary: chew, crawl, hurry, swallow, pouches, slow, tongue, zoo, babies, camouflage, coral, coral branch, current, eggs, fish, fins, mate, ocean, pouch, reef, sea, seabed, sea horse, slowly, swims, tail, waves

808. Elephants Can Paint Too! & Jamaica Louise James — If elephants can really paint, can’t Leona’s stuffed animal Lovey paint too? A young girl’s paintings brighten up a subway station, inspiring Leona to decorate the library with her paintings. Introduces vocabulary related to painting and art.

Key word: draw

Target sound: aw

High-frequency sight words: I, me, my, they, we

Featured vocabulary: bathe, drink, elephant, grass, leaves, nose, spray, trunk, water
New vocabulary: bright, brush, color, dab, drag, line, paint, painting, paper, picture, spots, strokes, touch, wiggly lines, yellow, awfully, blot, dab, layer, mayor, pad, plaque, saw (various meanings), smear, smidge, squiggle, steep, subway, surprise, token, worry

809. Trosclair and the Alligator & The Coyote and the Rabbit — A clever boy tricks a hungry alligator, who gives Lionel and his friend Keri a scare, and a hungry coyote gets tricked by a clever rabbit. Introduces vocabulary related to alligators and the bayou, synonyms for big (giant, enormous, humongous, gargantuan) and focuses on the /s/ sound represented by the letter c.

Key word: circle

Target sound: c (soft)

High-frequency sight words: he, she, the

Featured vocabulary: alligator, beehive, bees, cousins, hive, honey, oak tree, rice, swamp, uncle,

New vocabulary: bayou, cypress trees, enormous, gumbo, Louisiana, pirogue, sweet, stung, teeth, tree, turtle eggs, cannon, celery, clever, coyote, fragrance, morsel, relative, trapeze

810. I Don’t Want a Birthday Party & Knuffle Bunny — Leona can’t understand why Roodles the Clown doesn’t want a birthday party, and Theo, Lionel, and Leona don’t want to wash their favorite things.

Key word: rooster, bunny

Target sound: r, -y (ending)

High-frequency sight words: and, she, the, up

New vocabulary: birthday party, clown, crying, happy, opposite, ran, rattled, realized, relatives, room, rooster, round, running, surprised, barrel, comfortable, dawn, dusk, removable, wring

901. Night Shift & Under Construction — The Lion family helps out a monkey who sells ice cream in the middle of the night, and tries to figure out how to get rid of the enormous tree branch that fell into the library. Focuses on vocabulary related to jobs and construction vehicles.

902. Bugs & Beetle Bop — Can Cleo and the cubs cure Theo of his fear of caterpillars? And get ready for the sensational singing group coming to the library: The Beetles! Focuses on vocabulary related to insects and the sound made by ee.

903. Cliff Hanger, the Pheasant, and the Phone & Terrific — The Cliff Hanger fan club enjoys a long-lost adventure story, and Leona finds out why “terrific” doesn’t always mean terrific. Focuses on the sounds represented by ph and t, and introduces homophones as well as synonyms for terrific.

904. River Story & Salmon in Alaska — The cubs take a trip down the river, and the whole family heads to Alaska. Spotlights the sound made by the letter r, and features vocabulary related to fish and fishing.

905. Pigs in Hiding & Stop That Pickle! — The Lion family plays hide-and-seek, then joins a sandwich on the hunt for a runaway pickle in the library. Focuses on relational, locative, and quantitative vocabulary words, introduces contractions, and features three punctuation marks: the period, question mark, and exclamation point.

906. Priceless Gifts & King Midas — Is Lionel going to get his wish—to see Cliff Hanger get off the cliff? King Midas gets what he wished for, then wishes he didn’t. Focuses on the sounds represented by the letters sh and k.

907. The Popcorn Popper & Oh, Yes, It Can! — Lionel and Leona can’t make a popcorn popper stop popping, then meet a yam that can talk. Focuses on the short o sound, the -op word family, and the short a sound.

908. The Emperor’s New Clothes & The Hungry Coat — Lionel and Leona discover an emperor running around the library in his underwear, and Click the Mouse helps him find the perfect outfit for a Coat Party. Focuses on the sounds made by long u and v.

909. Like a Windy Day & Winter Is the Warmest Season — In this animated special, the Lion family and Click the Mouse try not to let the wind spoil their picnic, and Lionel tries to convince Leona that winter is really warm. Focuses on the sound of the letter y in words like windy, and features vocabulary about the weather and seasons.

910. Angelina’s Island & Chinese New Year — The Lions and friends celebrate their heritage, and an unusual visitor to the library introduces them to Chinese New Year. Focuses on the sound made by the letter h, and features vocabulary related to celebrations.

Additional Resource Information:

The website to support this series is found at

www.pbs.org/parents/lions/activities/teachers_toolkit.html