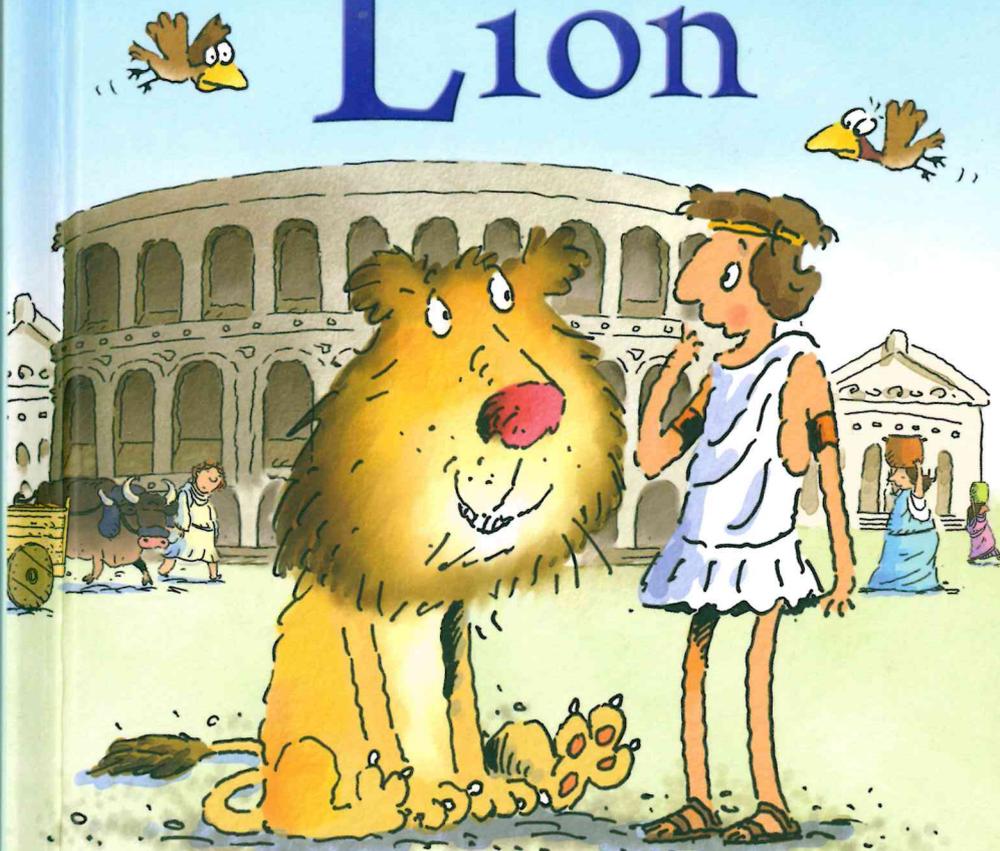


USBORNE FIRST READING



Androcles and the Lion



Retold by Russell Punter
Illustrated by Mike and Carl Gordon

CROSSHALL INFANT SCHOOL

Androcles and the Lion

Based on a story by Aesop

Retold by
Russell Punter

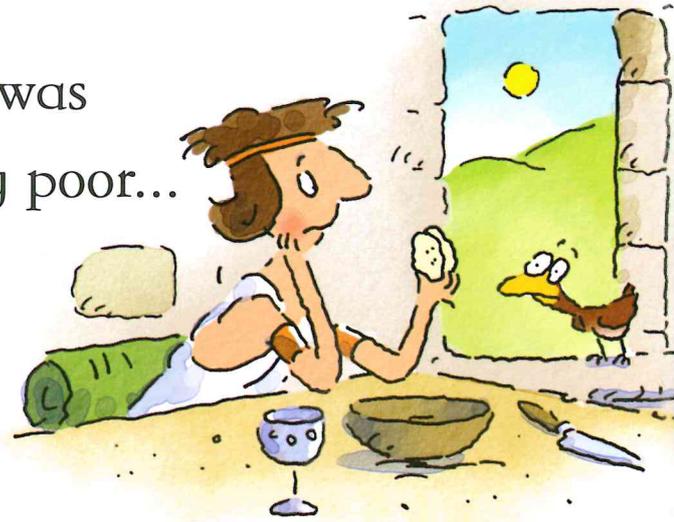


Illustrated by
Mike and Carl Gordon

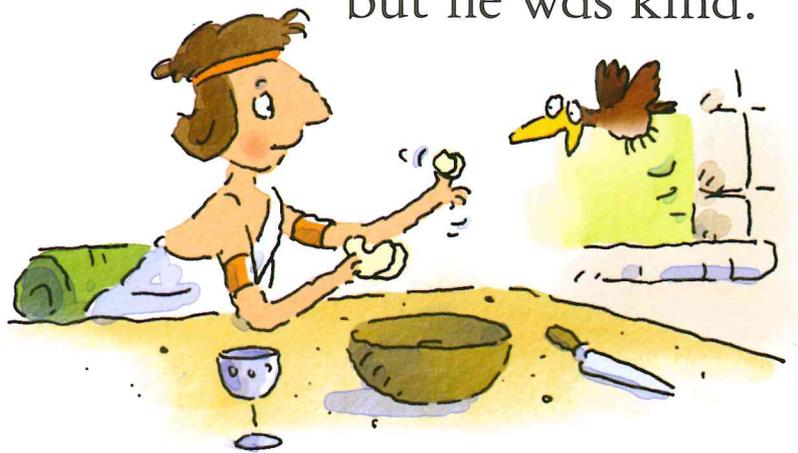
Reading Consultant: Alison Kelly
Roehampton University

A long time ago, there was
a man called Androcles*.

He was
very poor...

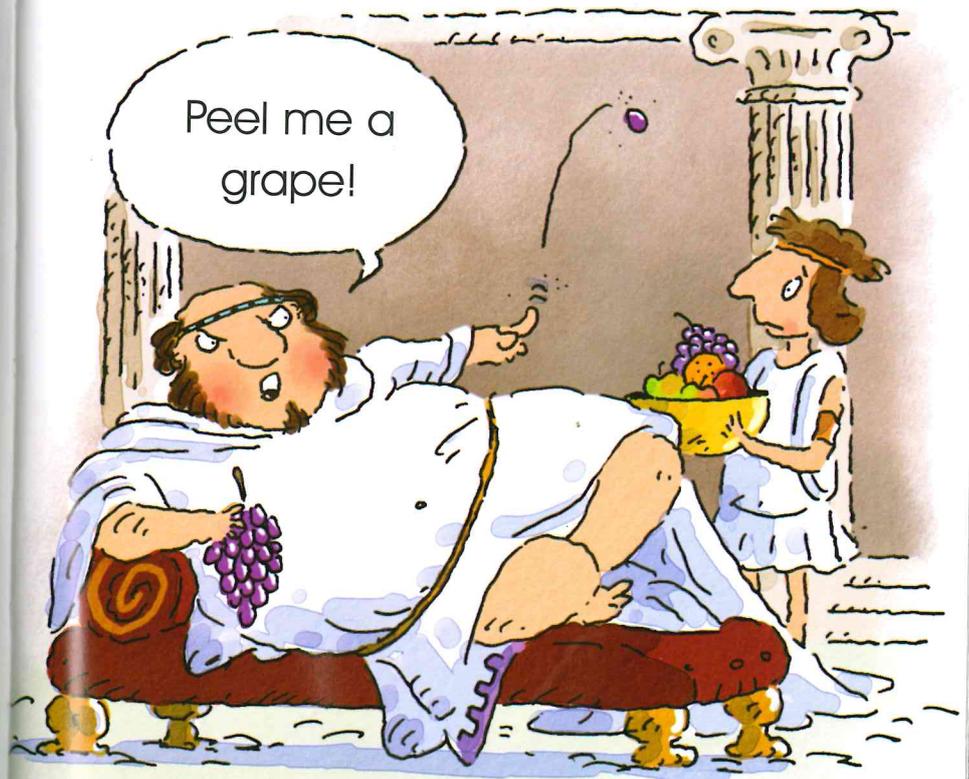


but he was kind.



*say And-rock-lees

Androcles worked for a rich man named Brutus*.

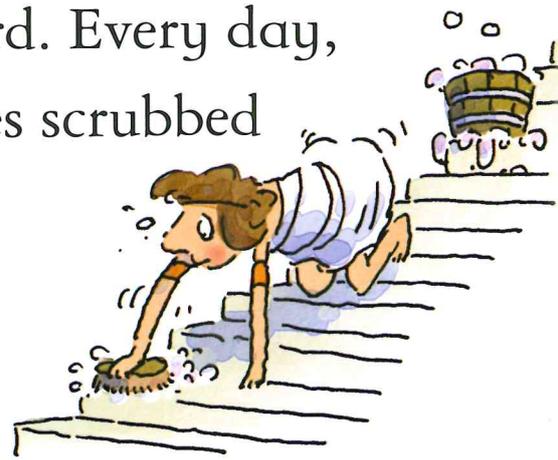


Brutus lived in a big house outside the city of Rome.

3

*say Broo-tus

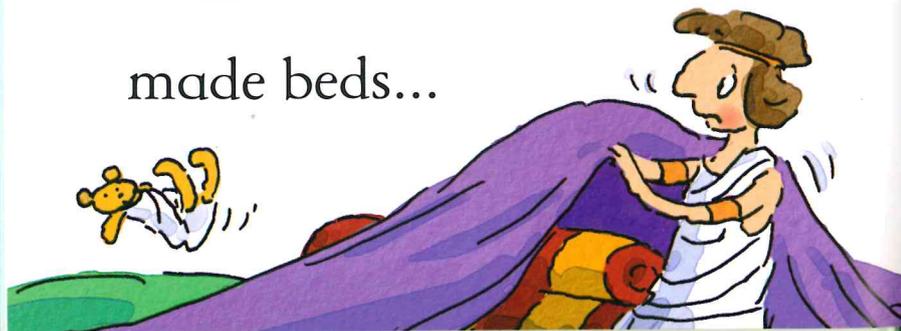
Brutus made his slaves
work hard. Every day,
Androcles scrubbed
steps...



mopped
floors...



made beds...



cooked food...

Cook faster!



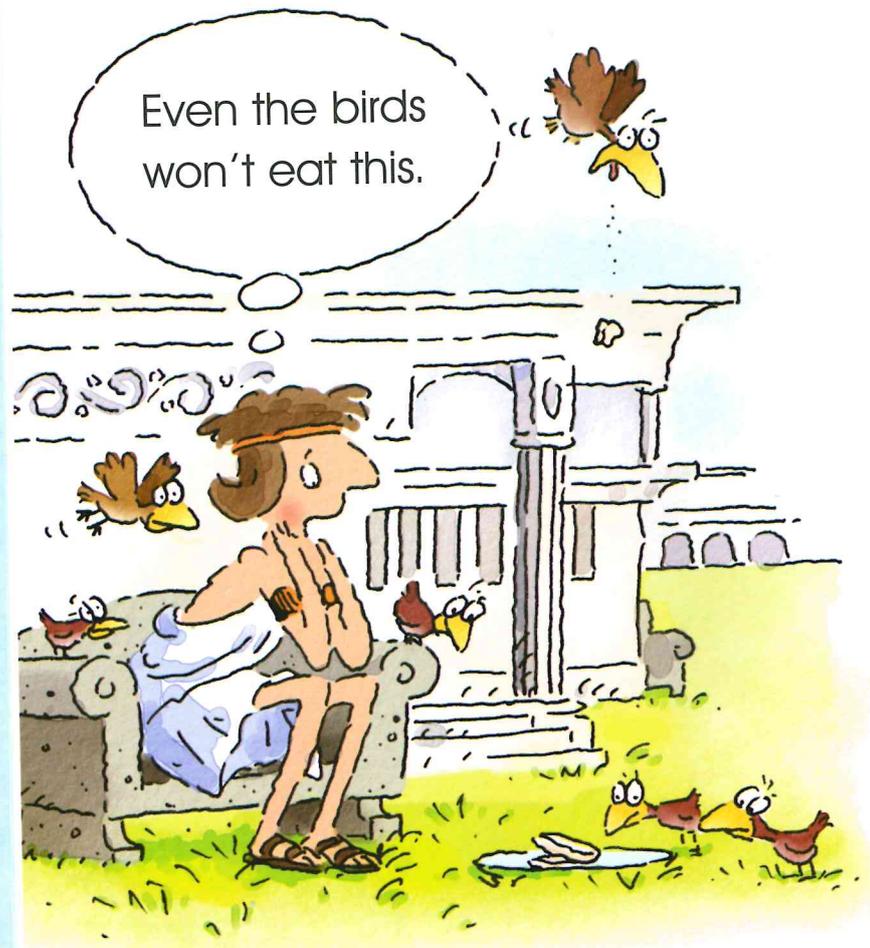
served
meals...

and washed pots.

What a life!



But Brutus never paid him.
All Androcles got was one
piece of dry bread a day.



One night, Androcles
decided to run away. He
climbed through a window.



Then he ran into the forest.

Androcles had never been
in the forest before. It was
dark and spooky.



Suddenly, he heard a loud
noise from behind a bush.



RAAAAGGGGH!

Androcles jumped. "Who...
who's there?" he asked.

He looked around the bush
and saw...

RAAAAGGGGH!



an enormous lion.

Androcles ran.

But the lion didn't run
after Androcles. He sat there,
as still as stone.



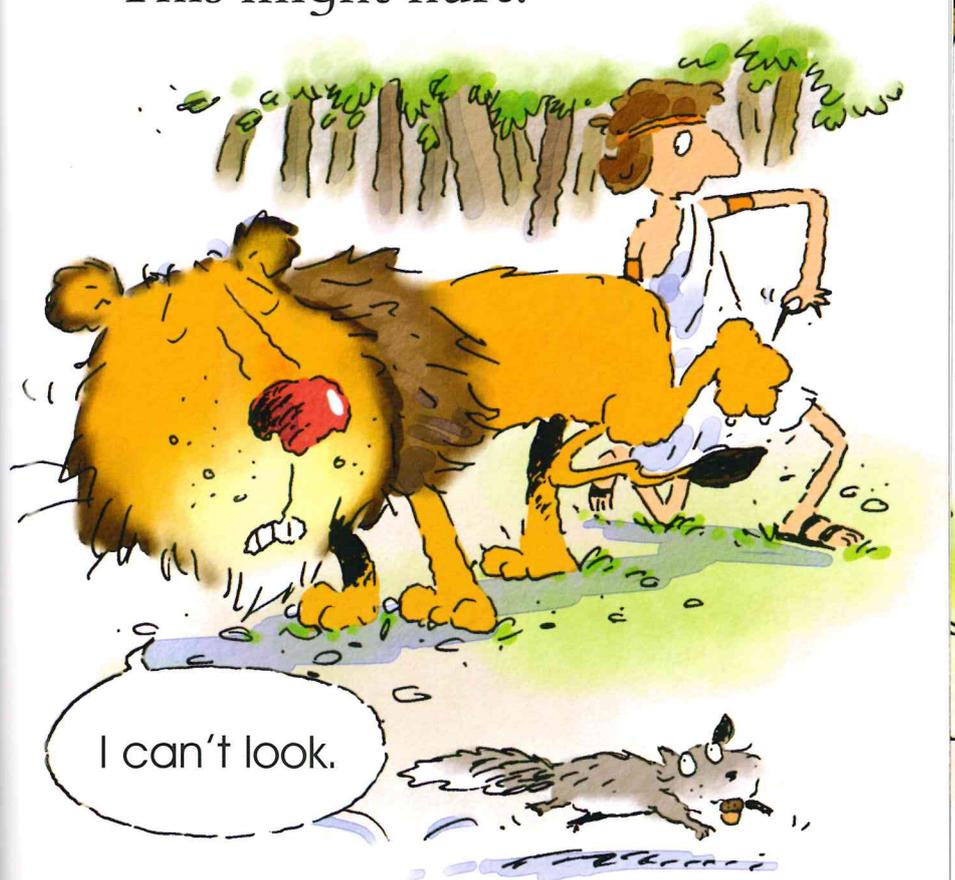
Androcles was surprised.
He went back. "Why didn't
you chase me?" he asked.

“I can’t run,” sniffed the lion. “I can’t even walk. There’s a thorn in my paw.”



“You poor thing,” said Androcles. “Let me help.”

He gripped the thorn.
"This might hurt."



Androcles pulled out the
thorn, as quickly as he could.

“Oooch!” yelped the lion.
“All done,” said Androcles.



“Thank you!” cried the lion
happily. “I’m Leo.”

He smiled and gave
Androcles a big, sloppy lick.



From then on, Androcles
and Leo were best friends.

They lived in a cave in the middle of the forest.



They hunted for food every day,



and, each night, they shared it.

One morning, Androcles
saw a stranger.



He tip-toed closer.

“A soldier!” he thought.
“What does he want?”



The soldier unrolled some
paper. Androcles gasped.



Just then, Androcles felt a bug on his nose. It tickled.

Atishooooo!!!



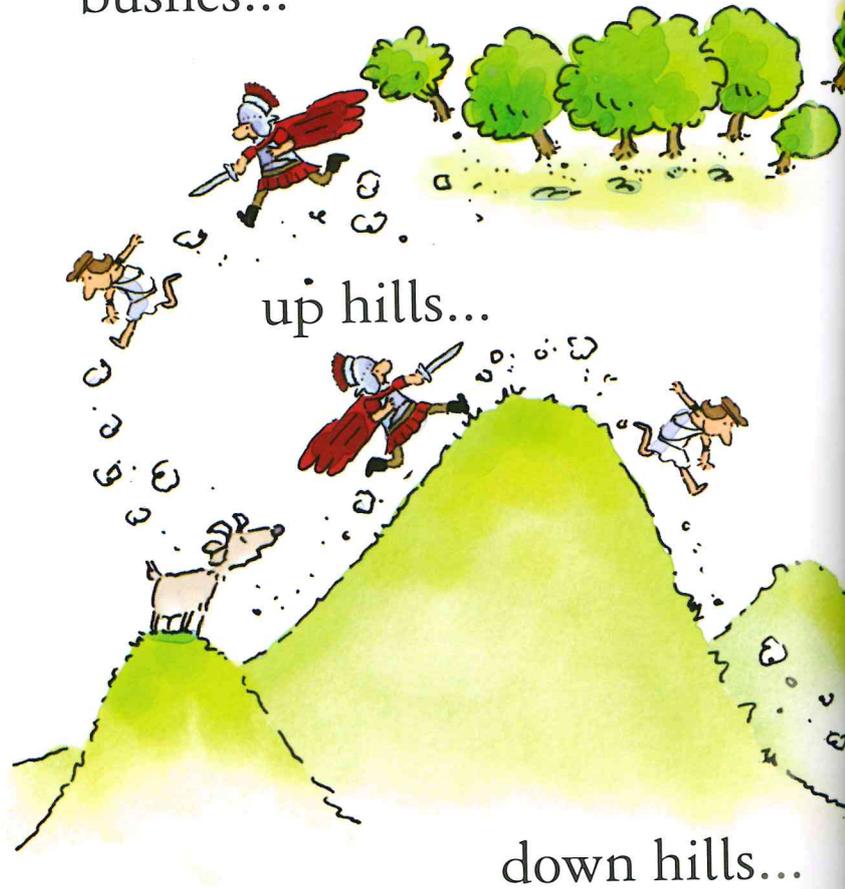
“Hey!” cried the soldier.
“Stop right there!”

The soldier pulled out
his sword.



Androcles ran.

The soldier chased
Androcles between
bushes...



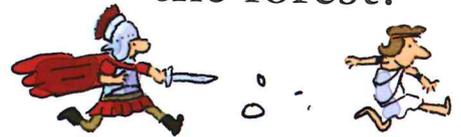
across a stream...



around
trees...



and out of
the forest.



Androcles got so tired,
he had to stop.



The soldier threw Androcles
into a cart.



“Are you taking me back to
Brutus?” panted Androcles.

“No,” boomed the soldier.
“You’re going to Rome.”



“Why?” asked Androcles.
“You’ll see,” the soldier said.