

King Lion and the Beetle

by Arnold Lobel

King Lion looked in the mirror.

“What a beautiful and noble creature I am,” he said. “I will go forth to show my devoted subjects that their leader is every inch a king!”

The King put on his robes of state, his large jeweled crown, and all of his gold and silver medals. As he walked down the roads of his kingdom, everyone who saw him bowed to the ground.

“Yes, yes,” said King Lion, “I deserve this respect from my people, for truly I *am* every inch a king!”

There was a tiny Beetle standing near the road.

When the King saw him, he cried, “Beetle, I command you to bow low before me!”

“Your Royal Majesty,” said the Beetle, “I know that I am small, but if you look at me closely, you will see that I am making a bow.”

The King leaned over.

“Beetle,” he said, “you are so hard to see down there. I am still not sure that you are bowing.”

“Your Majesty,” said the Beetle, “please look more closely. I assure you that I am indeed bowing.”

The King leaned over a little farther.

Now the robes of state, the large jeweled crown, and all of the gold and silver medals had made King Lion very top-heavy. Suddenly he lost his balance and fell on his head. With a great roar, he rolled into a ditch at the side of the road.

The frightened Beetle scurried away. From head to foot, every inch of King Lion was covered with wet mud.

It is the high and mighty who have the longest distance to fall.

“King Lion and the Beetle” from *Fables* by Arnold Lobel. Copyright © 1980 by Arnold Lobel. Used by permission of HarperCollins Publishers. This selection may not be re-illustrated without written permission of HarperCollins.

1. Which word **best** describes the beetle?

- A angry
- B boastful
- C polite
- D shy

2. Which event happens before King Lion meets the Beetle?

- A Other animals bow to King Lion.
- B The other beetles run away.
- C The Beetle tries to hide.
- D King Lion falls in the mud.

3. In the fourth paragraph, why is the word *am* written in italics?
- A to stress that King Lion is a weak king
 - B to show that King Lion deserves respect
 - C to stress how great King Lion thinks he is
 - D to show that King Lion is large in size

4. What caused King Lion to fall?

- A the mirror
- B the mud
- C the ditch
- D his jewelry

5. What personal characteristic of King Lion was the **main** reason for his downfall?

- A his pride
- B his confusion
- C his friendliness
- D his temper

6. How do King Lion's feelings change from the beginning of the selection to the end?

- A from weak to strong
- B from sad to happy
- C from proud to embarrassed
- D from frightened to courageous

End of Set

In compliance with federal law, including the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its policies, programs, activities, admissions or employment.

EOG Grade 5 Reading Sample Items

Selection Title	Question Number	Correct Answer	Thinking Skill	Objective Number
King Lion and the Beetle	1	C	Analyzing	3.01
King Lion and the Beetle	2	A	Organizing	2.02
King Lion and the Beetle	3	C	Analyzing	2.01
King Lion and the Beetle	4	D	Knowledge	2.02
King Lion and the Beetle	5	A	Generating	3.01
King Lion and the Beetle	6	C	Organizing	3.01