**Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Homeroom**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Gratitude in Androcles and the Lion***

**Directions:** Read the context and fable below and answer the questions that follow.

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| **What is a Fable?**  Fables are stories that are supposed to teach readers a lesson and are NOT supposed to be realistic. This story is no different. There were no lions near Rome, even in ancient times and if there were a hungry lion would probably kill a human no matter what.  So, as you read, consider why the author created *this* story, with *these* characters and events? Why does he start with the main character as a slave? |

**“Androcles and the Lion” by Aesop (Retold by James Baldwin)**

“In Rome there was once a poor slave whose name was Androcles. His master was a cruel man, and so unkind to him that at last Androcles ran away.

He hid himself in a wild wood for many days. But there was no food to be found, and he grew so weak and sick that he thought he would die. So one day he crept into a cave and lay down, and soon he was fast asleep.

After a while a great noise woke him up. A lion had come into the cave, and was roaring loudly. Soon, however, he saw that the lion was not angry, but that he limped as though his foot hurt him.

Then Androcles grew so bold[[1]](#footnote-1) that he took hold of the lion’s lame[[2]](#footnote-2) paw to see what was the matter. Androcles lifted the paw from the ground, and saw that it was a long, sharp thorn which hurt the lion so much. He took the end of the thorn in his fingers; then he gave a strong, quick pull, and out it came.

The lion was full of joy. He jumped about like a dog, and licked the hands and feet of his new friend. For a long time after, the lion brought food to Androcles every day, and the two became such good friends that Androcles found his new life a very happy one.”

**“Androcles and the Lion” by Aesop (Retold by James Baldwin)**

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| **Stop and Jot**: How does the lion express his gratitude to Androcles?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

“One day some soldiers who were passing through the wood found Androcles in the cave. They knew who he was, and so took him back to Rome. It was the law at that time that every slave who ran away from his master should be made to fight a hungry lion. So a fierce lion was shut up for a while without food, and a time was set for the fight.

When the day came, thousands of people crowded to see the sport. The door opened, and poor Androcles was brought in. He was almost dead with fear, for the roars of the lion could already be heard. He looked up, and saw that there was no pity[[3]](#footnote-3) in the thousands of faces around him.

Then the hungry lion rushed in. With a single bound[[4]](#footnote-4) he reached the poor slave. Androcles gave a great cry, not of fear, but of gladness. It was his old friend, the lion of the cave.

The people were soon filled with wonder. They saw Androcles put his arms around the lion’s neck; they saw the lion lie down at his feet, and lick them lovingly; they saw the great beast rub his head on≈ the slave’s face as though he wanted to be petted. They could not understand what it all meant.

After a while they asked Androcles to tell them about it. So he stood up before them, and, with his arm around the lion’s neck, told how he and the beast had lived together in the cave.”

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| **Stop and Jot:** Why does the hungry lion decide not to eat Androcles?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

***Gratitude in Androcles and the Lion* (Continued)**

“‘I am a man,’ he said, “but no man has ever befriended[[5]](#footnote-5) me. This poor lion alone has been kind to me and we love each other as brothers.’

The people were not so bad that they could be cruel to the poor slave now. ‘Live and be free!’ they cried. “Live and be free!” Others cried, “Let the lion go free too! Give both of them their liberty[[6]](#footnote-6)!’”

And so Androcles was set free, and the lion was given to him for his own. And they lived together in Rome for many years.

***Gratitude in Androcles and the Lion* Reflection Questions**

1. Why do the Romans change their minds so quickly and decide to let the lion and Androcles go? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Why do you think Aesop chose to write a fable where the slave and the lion were set free at the end? What does this tell us about the connection between freedom and gratitude?

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1. Think of someone else who has done something kind for you that you never had the chance to properly thank. How can you repay them for this favor like the lion did with Androcles?

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**Stamp Your Learning for *Gratitude in Androcles and the Lion***

1. In one artful sentence, explain what this story teaches us about gratitude.

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1. Name two ways that you will apply what you learned today at school or home this week.

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1. **bold**: without fear of danger [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **lame**: injury that makes walking difficult [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **pity**: strong feeling of sadness for someone [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **bound**: a leap or jump [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. **befriended**: to make friends with [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. **liberty**: the power to act however you want to [↑](#footnote-ref-6)