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Fort Wayne Youtheatre
Here is an example of a fable that you can create in your own Shadow Puppet theatre at home. Included in this are examples of puppets you can use at home.

The Lion and the Mouse

The Lion and The Mouse: There once was

The Lion: A Great Lion, King of all the Animals...

The Mouse: And a Meek mouse.

The Mouse: On one particularly hot and sunny afternoon,

The Lion: After having spent a busy day running about, visiting his royal subjects, and being the King of all the Animals, the Great Lion became very tired.

The Lion: So the Great Lion decided to take advantage of the cool shade of a tree to escape the heat and humidity of the day.

The Lion: The Great Lion stretched himself out and lay down to take an afternoon nap.

The Mouse: Meanwhile, the Meek mouse, spent a busy day running about seeking food for his house. Soon, the Meek Mouse found himself very tired.

The Mouse: So he decided to take advantage of the cool shade of a tree to escape the heat and humidity of the day.

The Lion: But when the Meek Mouse got to the Shade Tree he found the Great Lion taking a nap in the cool of its shade. Having never seen the Lion this close the mouse was frozen with fear.
The Mouse: Realizing the Lion was asleep, the mouse first tried to sneak past the lion. When the Lion didn’t wake as he walked by, the mouse got brave and reached out to touch the lion’s great paw.

The Mouse: When the Lion didn’t wake, the mouse jumped up and began running up and down across the Lion’s great back. When the Lion didn’t wake he began to jump around on the Lion like a great trampoline. When the Lion didn’t wake he began to dance around wildly on the...

The Lion: WHAT IS GOING ON! WHAT KIND OF FLEA OR GNAT IS USING ME AS A TRAMPOLINE!

The Mouse: The Meek Mouse, realizing he pressed his luck too far, tried to scurry quickly off the Great Lion’s back and run away.

The Lion: Only to have the Great Lion place his huge paw upon the mouse. Was it you, meek mouse, running about on my back and using me as a trampoline? As punishment for pestering the Great Lion I will now open my big jaws and swallow you up.

The Mouse: Faced with the possibility of being swallowed up by the Great Lion, the Meek Mouse suddenly got clever.

The Mouse: Pardon, O great King. I have been foolish and silly.

The Lion: And why shouldn’t I swallow you up, annoying little Mouse? You who runs around on me, disturbing my much needed nap! Give me one good reason.

The Mouse: While I am the smallest of your subjects, if you forgive me this time, I shall never forget it. Who knows, one day I might be able to do you a favor one day?

The Lion: The Great Lion glared at the Meek Mouse.

The Mouse: The Meek Mouse trembled with fear.
The Lion: The Great Lion leaned in and opened his great jaws...and began to laugh.

The Lion: You make me laugh Meek Mouse, but your cleverness amuses me. And so, I will spare you in hope that one day you, tiny one, may do me a good turn.

The Mouse: Thank you oh King. And one day I will repay you. Little friends may prove great friends.

The Lion: Hahaha. Well tiny one we shall see.

The Lion: And so the Great Lion lifted his great paw and set the Meek Mouse free.

The Mouse: The Meek Mouse scurried away and back to home to celebrate his good luck at being spared by the Great Lion.

The Lion: After freeing the Meek Mouse, Great Lion laid back down in the cool of the shade tree to continue his nap. As he slept, along came some Hunters.

Hunter 1: Look there. It’s the Great Lion asleep and unguarded.

Hunter 2: Lets trap him in our net.

Hunter 3: Yes! And then bring him to town and sell him.

The Mouse: The Hunters snuck up upon the Great Lion, tossed their net over him and tied him to the shade tree. Try as he might, the Great Lion was bound tight in the net and could not move.

The Lion: Free me you puny Hunters! I will open my great Jaws and swallow you whole!

Hunter 1: Let him roar.

Hunter 2: We have him tied tight.

Hunter 3: We need to go in search of a wagon to load him on so we can cart him to town and sell him.
The Lion: And off the Hunters went, leaving the Great Lion helpless, tied to the Shade Tree.

The Mouse: The Great Lion Roared after the Hunters.

The Lion: ROAR!

The Mouse: He roared in anger.

The Lion: ROAR!

The Mouse: And realizing he was tied and helpless, he roared in frustration.

The Lion: ROAR!

The Lion: The Great Lion, despite his strength, despite his great jaws, was caught tight in the Hunters net and could do nothing.

The Mouse: Off in his home, the Meek Mouse heard the helpless, frustrated roars of the Great Lion. The Meek Mouse ran to the Shade Tree and saw the pitiful sight that was the Great Lion, tied tight in the Hunters net.

The Mouse: Fear not Great Lion, I will do what I can to help you.

The Lion: What can you do Meek Mouse? I cannot open my great jaws or use my strength to break this net.

The Mouse: The Meek Mouse sprang into action and began to gnaw away at the strands of the net that bound the Great Lion. He was able to gnaw a small hole in the net. Which became a bigger hole, which became a bigger hole.

The Lion: Soon, thanks to the Meek Mouse the Great Lion was able to free one Great Paw and claw away the net, shredding it and freeing him.

The Lion: You Meek Mouse and not meek at all. You are brave and loyal and clever. I am forever in your debt.

The Lion: And with that the Great Lion stretched out one Great Paw to the Great Mouse, inviting him to climb up on his back.
The Mouse: Was I not right?

The Lion: Yes, you were, Great Mouse. Little friends do indeed prove to be great friends.

The Lion and the Mouse: And together they ran off.

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