

# The Lion's Share: A Tale of Halving the Cake and Eating It, Too

by Matthew McElligot

*The Lion's Share* is an exciting story that teaches, not only about sharing and manners, but also about mathematical fractions. By using water color and witty dialogue, this book is great for young learners and helps them understand the concept of halving.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What would it be like to have dinner with a lion?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if the lion is nice?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *The Lion's Share*

- spring: a season that spans from mid-March to mid-June, it follows winter
- nervous: having a feeling of dread or apprehension
- impression: what stays in somebody's mind
- macaw: large tropical parrot
- warthog: large African pig
- tortoise: large reptile with a shell
- gorilla: the largest ape
- greedy: strongly desiring more than required
- scoffed: to express scorn about somebody or something
- disgust: strong disapproval or revulsion
- mortified: shame somebody
- crestfallen: disappointed or humiliated

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why is the ant invited to eat with the king lion?
- What kind of animals came to the dinner?
- How did the animals act at the party?
- What happened to the cake?
- What did ant offer to make for the king?
- What did the other animals offer to make?
- What happened when ant gave lion the cake he made?



**Do**

## Math Time

Give each child play-dough and play-dough utensils. Allow the children enough time to roll out a circle or flatten the play-dough large enough to cut later. Demonstrate first by cutting your play-dough in half. Ask the question. How many pieces do I have now? Instruct the children to cut their play-dough in half. Have them pick up one piece and tell that they are now holding half of the play-dough. Repeat the steps, until you have eight pieces, and continue to talk about fractions.