

Minnesota Storytime  
Reading Guide

**Title:** *The Lion's Share / Qayb Libaax*

**Author:** Said Salah Ahmed

**Illustrator:** Kelly Dupre

**Publisher and  
Copyright Date:** Minnesota Humanities Commission, 2007

**Connection to  
Minnesota:** Minnesota author, Minnesota publisher

**Summary:** This is a retelling of a traditional Somali folktale. A lion and other animals work together to hunt a camel and then must decide how to divide it. This is one of four Somali folktales published as bilingual children's picture books through the Minnesota Humanities Center's Somali Bilingual Book Project. To learn more, visit:  
[www.minnesotahumanities.org](http://www.minnesotahumanities.org).

**Suggested ages:** 4-6, 7-10

**Tips for Reading:**

- Show children a globe or world map to point out the country of Somalia.
- Read the story all the way through in one language at a time for easier comprehension.
- If the reader is not bilingual, use the dual-language CD, published by the Minnesota Humanities Center, to play the story in the additional language.

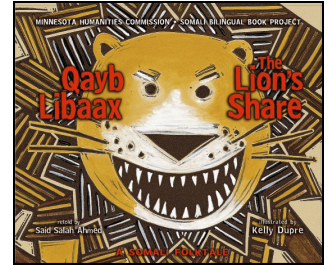
**Questions before reading:**

- This story is from the country, Somalia, in Africa. What animals might you find in Somalia? Display a visual of each animal from the story as it is named.
- Which animal is the king of the jungle? What words would you use to describe this animal?
- Lions, other animals, and people eat camel meat in Somalia. If you have a big plate of meat how would you share it with others? Would you eat it all? Cut it in half? Give each person a bite? What would be fair?

**To Introduce this story say:** This is a story about a group of animals in Somalia that are hunting a camel. Let's see how they decide to share the camel meat...

**Questions After Reading:**

- How would you describe the lion in this story?
- Have you heard the phrase, "the lion's share" before? How was it used?
- What could be a different ending for this story?



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Art:**
- Make a lion mask (use paper plates, paper strips or yarn, cornstarch or glue). Have the children think about what kind of expression they would like their lion to have.
- Culture:**
- Learn more about Somali culture, visit: <http://www.cal.org/co/somali/index.html>
- Dramatization:**
- Give children cutout images of each of the animals in the story. Allow them to play with these characters, recreate this story, or create a new story.
- Language:**
- Conduct a scavenger hunt for the phrase “the lion’s share”. Have children look through books, magazines, other text for uses of this phrase. (Have a number of pre-selected samples available if conducted in class. Or, have students search outside sources.) Discuss whether the use of the phrase is positive or negative.
  - Compare and contrast this story with a version of the Aesop fable, <http://www.aesopfables.com/cgi/aesop1.cgi?sel&TheLionsShare>
- Math:**
- Have children work in small groups. Give each group a picture of a pizza to share. Have them cut it into fractional pieces (1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16). Discuss who will get the larger share.
- Science:**
- Learn more about lions in Africa, visit: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Animals/CreatureFeature> and click on the photo of the lion
  - For older students, visit: <http://lionresearch.org/behaviorguide.html>
- Writing:**
- Rewrite the story from the lion’s point of view.
- Other:**
- For more ideas on using folktales/fables visit, [http://edsitement.neh.gov/view\\_lesson\\_plan.asp?id=240](http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=240)
- Suggestions for English Language Learners:**
- Have students summarize the story. Write simple summary sentences on large sentence strips to use for “re-reading” the story.
  - Invite Somali students to share different versions of this story, or invite parents to come share different versions that they may know.
- Related Books:**
- *Dhegdheer* by Marian A. Hassan, illustrated by Betsy Bowen (Minnesota Humanities Commission, 2007)
  - *Eating Fractions* by Bruce McMillan (Scholastic, 1991)
  - *Honey..Honey..Lion!* by Jan Brett (Penguin, 2005)
  - *The Lion and the Mouse* by Bernadette Watts (North-South, 2000)
  - *Lions (Our Wild World)* by Cherie Winner, illustrated by John F. McGee (Northword Press, 2001)

