

Getting Back at the Lion Tamer

an original tale of revenge by fourth-grader Kathryn B.

One day my parents told me that I would get to go to the carnival and I could pick one friend to go to the carnival with. Of course, I picked my best friend, Joe, to go to the carnival with me. We planned to go the next day at 7:00 in the morning.



When I went to bed, I had a nightmare about the carnival and we went to the Lion Tamer. He makes lions jump through a ring of fire, then at the end of the show he picks one person from the audience to jump through the ring of fire. In my dream the Lion Tamer picked my best friend to jump through the ring of fire, but my best friend was too scared to do it, so the Lion Tamer pushed my friend into the ring of fire. My best friend had to go to the hospital that day and when we took him home, he was covered in bandages from his burns. Then I heard a loud screech!

Oh, it was just my alarm clock. I was so happy that I got to go to the carnival, but I was also kind of scared because of my dream. I got out of bed and put my sweat outfit on. Then I brushed my hair and my teeth, and I ran downstairs where my mom and dad were sitting at the kitchen table. Then I said, "Let's go! We can't miss the Lion Tamer show! We have to go, come on, come on!"

We got in the car and went to Joe's house and when we got there he had his sweats on too! So he got into the car, and we were off to the carnival!

When we got to the carnival, there was no line for the ticket booth. We were so lucky! When we went inside the carnival, we heard the announcer say the Lion Tamer will be open in five minutes. I said, Come on, guys, we have to go. We need to get a front row seat so we can get picked to jump through the ring of fire!" When we got to the show, we got a front row seat.

The show started! The Lion Tamer lit the ring of fire and made lions jump through it! At the end of the show, he picked a person from the audience. He picked my best friend Joe! Joe stepped on the podium, but he got so scared he started to step off the podium. The Lion Tamer pushed him, and he fell into the ring of fire. My best friend was burning!

We had to leave the carnival early that day so we could take Joe to the hospital. When we took him home, he was covered in bandages. When I saw him, I knew I had to get revenge.

That night I planned my revenge. I decided that I would sneak into the Lion Tamer's lion chamber and dye the lions' manes pink, and the Lion Tamer would be so embarrassed at his next show. The next night I snuck into the lion chamber, and I brought pink dye. Then, I poured pink dye onto the lions' manes.

The next day the Lion Tamer was so embarrassed that he ran, but he stopped at my house. He said, "Why would someone do that to me?"

"It's all because you pushed my best friend Joe into the fire."

He said, "Oh, I wish I hadn't pushed Joe into the fire."

I said, "I will take you to Joe's house so you can apologize."

He said that would be nice. I took the Lion Tamer to Joe's house where he said he was sorry to Joe.

I gave the Lion Tamer a bottle of water that comes with the dye that washes the dye out of hair. The Lion Tamer gave Joe and me front row seats and back stage passes for his next show.

We all lived happily ever after...except for Joe. It took five weeks for his burns to heal!

Trait discussion question: Our friend Kathryn has written a very original tale about getting revenge in a unique way. Nice work, Kathryn.

Pretend you are in Kathryn's writing group. Kathryn is hoping to do one more draft of her story, and she wants to further improve her idea development and her organization. What suggestions would you give Kathryn? Write two or three ideas in the box below:

What's Idea Development?

- **The writer uses both showing *and* telling**
- **The writer uses memorable details for characters, settings, and objects**
- **The writer has written about a unique topic or in a unique way**
- **The writer does not include details that are unimportant to the story's big idea**
- **The writer sounds as if he/she really knows his/her topic**

What's Organization?

- **There writer has created a strong introduction for the writing**
- **The writing comes to a satisfying conclusion at its end**
- **The writer uses transition words well to move the story along smoothly**
- **New paragraph breaks make sense**
- **The introduction sometimes links back to the conclusion**

Three suggestions for Kathryn:

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