



HOW TO BE A LION

ED VERE

Everyone knows that lions are supposed to be a certain way. They are supposed to be strong and fierce and chomp on animals that are smaller than they are. But what if all lions aren't like that? What if one is gentle? What if he writes poems? What if to him, little animals are friends, not to be chomped? Is it okay to be different than everyone else?

Questions:

1. "The world is full of ideas." Is it okay to have different ideas from your friends? Does thinking different things mean that someone is wrong and somebody is right? Or can you disagree and still be friends?
2. Is there only one way that it's okay to be, or can people all be different? Is it okay to be different?
3. Is there something wrong with Leonard just because he isn't the same as all the other lions? Or is it possible to be different and still be okay?
4. Is there somewhere you like to go to think? Is it easier to think with a lot of other people around or when you're by yourself?
5. Do you like to read or write poetry? What is poetry especially good for? Talking about all kinds of feelings or being angry and fierce?
6. Why doesn't Leonard chomp Marianne the duck when he first meets her? Would other lions have chomped her right away? Would that have been good or bad?
7. If he had chomped Marianne could she have helped him with his poem? Could she have become his friend? Was it better to be nice first when she was a stranger or should he have been mean and fierce?
8. Can two people who look different and people think should act different still be friends? Can two people who look different feel the same on the inside?
9. Is it more important to listen to other people telling you who to be and what to do, or is it more important to listen to your heart telling you who you are and what to do?
10. Should anyone ever change who they know they are in their heart for someone else? Is it possible to change who you are in your heart when you know it's right?
11. If words can change minds and change the world, how should you use your words? To tell the truth and be kind, or to hurt others?
12. Was Leonard brave? Is it easy to be brave and stand up for yourself? Is it the right thing to do? Are the right thing and the easy thing always the same?

