

This text is from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/ztfk6sg/revision/4>

## Lionboy

**Lionboy:** Then, one day, I found myself alone cleaning their cages. I took a deep breath and addressed the old lion in my most grown-up voice. Hello, sir. The alley cats told me if I ever needed help I should ask a cat. Have you heard anything about my parents? I could barely make out his long, sad face in the gloom of his cage.

**Lion:** I hear nothing, boy. I live in the dark, I see no-one. We eat dead meat. We lie still when we are not forced to play games for you humans. We used to be lions, boy. We used to know things. Now, we know nothing.

**Lionboy:** I'm sorry I upset you.

**Lion:** We are not upset. But we should be. We should be very upset. We should be roaring and raging, plotting, scheming, escaping, but we are not. We feel heavy and tired. Our coats are thin and greasy. The air tastes strange to our tongues.