

Greetings. I am Linus the Lionhearted, and I would like to tell you an interesting story about me and my friends. It's the story of *Linus and the Great Jungle Picnic Mix-Up*.

If you'd like, you can read along with me in your book. Every time you hear this sound (chime), you'll know that it's time for you to turn the page.

I assume that you are ready, so, let's begin:

**\*\*Page 1\*\***

\*(Illustration: Linus the Lionhearted sitting proudly in his barbershop chair throne in the sunny jungle clearing, with his friends gathered around him.)\*

One bright morning in the jungle, I, Linus, was sitting in my royal throne, feeling very kingly indeed.

I announced to my subjects before me. "Good morning, subjects!"

Billy Bird, being a motormouth, fluttered down. "Good morning, Linus!"

Dinny Kangaroo, an adventurer, bounced over with a big smile. "G'day, Gov'ner!"

Even Croc-AH-dil-ee waved his tail from the riverbank. "Good morning, Linus." (chime)

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\*(Illustration: Sasha Grouse frowning with crossed wings, while Mockingbird perches nearby looking mischievous.)\*

But not *everyone* was cheerful.

The usually-grouchy Sasha Grouse grumbled from his branch. "Hmph! Another noisy day in this jungle."

"Another noisy day in this jungle," the usually annoying Mockingbird repeated.

Mockingbird repeated everything as usual.

I decided it was time for something fun. "Friends, let's have a great big picnic today!"

Everyone cheered—well, *almost* everyone. (chime)

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\*(Illustration: Billy Bird flying excitedly with a basket, Dinny Kangaroo hopping with fruits in his pouch.)\*

Billy Bird flapped his wings happily. "I'll bring the worms—I mean, the berries!"

Dinny Kangaroo laughed. "I'll hop to the fruit trees and bring bananas and mangoes!" He bounced away adventurously.

I nodded wisely. "Excellent! I'll provide the royal honey from my secret hive."

Grouse just grumbled, "Picnics are too much work."

"Picnics are too much work," Mockingbird echoed.

Grouse shouted. "Stop mocking me!"

"Stop mocking me," Mockingbird repeated. (chime)

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\*(Illustration: Crocodile lounging in the river, smiling lazily as fish jump around him.)\*

Croc-AH-dil-ee, my scaly friend, grinned from the water. "I'll catch some fresh fish for the picnic."

I agreed as he snapped his jaws. "Sounds delicious!"

Everything was going perfectly. Or so I thought. Little did we know, Mockingbird was about to cause a silly mix-up by repeating the wrong things at the wrong time!

**\*\*Page 5\*\***

\*(Illustration: Mockingbird perched on a branch, mimicking an apparently annoyed Grouse's grumble.)\*

As we prepared, Mockingbird flew around repeating everyone.

Grouse muttered. "I don't want to go to any picnic."

"Everyone to the picnic," Mockingbird mistook.

Grouse shook his head. "That's not what I said!"

"That's not what I said," Mockingbird echoed.

Oh, that annoying bird! (chime)

**\*\*Page 6\*\***

\*(Illustration: Dinny bouncing back with a pouch full of odd items like rocks and leaves instead of fruit.)\*

Dinny returned from his adventure, but his pouch was full of rocks and leaves!

I was surprised. "What happened, Kangaroo?"

Dinny explained. "Mockingbird kept repeating 'rocks and leaves' when I was picking fruit!"

Billy Bird arrived next, but instead of berries, he had... worms! "Mockingbird said 'bring the worms' over and over!" Billy chuckled nervously.

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\*(Illustration: Crocodile emerging from the river with a net full of old boots and cans, looking confused.)\*

Then, Croc-AH-dil-ee splashed out of the river holding a net full of old boots and tin cans. "I thought you said catch boots and cans, Linus!"

I roared with laughter. "No, no, Croc-AH-dil-ee! Mockingbird must have mixed up my words again!"

Grouse grumbled louder than ever. "This picnic is a disaster already!"

"This picnic is a disaster already," Mockingbird echoed. (chime)

**\*\*Page 8\*\***

\*(Illustration: Linus standing up in his chair, looking determined, with friends gathered looking worried.)\*

I stood up in my throne. "Don't worry, friends! We can fix this mix-up together."

Billy Bird made a suggestion. "Let's all go collect the right food as a team!"

Dinny bounced excitedly. "Time for another bloomin' adventure!"

Even Croc-AH-dil-ee nodded. "I'll help snap up the real fish."

But, as always, Grouse still frowned.

**\*\*Page 9\*\***

\*(Illustration: The group adventuring together—Dinny hopping ahead, Billy flying scout, Crocodile swimming alongside.)\*

Off we went on a jungle adventure! Billy Bird flew ahead to spot the best berry bushes.

"Berries this way!" he called.

Dinny Kangaroo hopped bravely through the vines to reach the tallest fruit trees.

Croc-AH-dil-ee swam in the river to catch shiny fish.

As for me, I led the way with my lionhearted courage. (chime)

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\*(Illustration: Mockingbird following the group, trying to repeat helpful things but still getting it wrong comically.)\*

Mockingbird followed us, trying to help by repeating directions.

"Berries this way! This way!" he called correctly for once. But then he added, "No, that way! That way!"

We all laughed at his silly repetitions.

I said, kindly, "Mockingbird, just repeat once, please."

He tried: "Mockingbird, just repeat once, please."

**\*\*Page 11\*\***

\*(Illustration: Sasha Grouse reluctantly joining, carrying a small basket, looking less grouchy.)\*

Even Grouse joined us, grumbling at first.

"Fine, I'll carry the basket."

But as we picked juicy fruits and berries, Grouse started to smile a tiny bit.

"These grapes aren't bad," he admitted quietly.

These grapes aren't bad," Mockingbird repeated.

Sasha chased him playfully. "Stop that!" (chime)

**\*\*Page 12\*\***

\*(Illustration: The friends returning to the clearing with baskets full of proper picnic food, looking happy.)\*

Soon, our baskets were overflowing with delicious berries, bananas, mangoes, honey, and fresh fish. We returned to the clearing, tired but excited.

"What a great adventure!" Dinny said.

Billy Bird agreed. "And no more mix-ups!"

Croc-AH-dil-ee chuckled. "Thanks to teamwork!"

**\*\*Page 13\*\***

\*(Illustration: Everyone setting up the picnic blanket in the clearing, with food spread out.)\*

We spread a big blanket under the shady trees and laid out the feast. I sat in my chair, which I brought along, of course.

"Let the great jungle picnic begin!" I declared.

Everyone dug in happily.

Even Grouse munched contentedly. "This isn't half bad," he said. (chime)

**\*\*Page 14\*\***

\*(Illustration: Mockingbird perched nearby, now repeating positive things like "Yum yum!")\*

Mockingbird perched on a branch and repeated, "Yum yum! Yum yum!" For once, it was helpful because it made us all laugh and eat more. Billy Bird shared berries with Dinny. Croc-AH-dil-ee passed fish around carefully with his tail. Why, we even told funny stories about the mix-up.

**\*\*Page 15\*\***

\*(Illustration: Sasha Grouse accidentally smiling while eating, surprised at himself.)\*

Grouse tried to stay grouchy. "Hmph, too many laughs."

But then he burst out laughing when Mockingbird repeated "Hmph!" in a perfect grouchy voice.

"Okay, okay, this picnic is fun," Grouse admitted.

We all cheered for our grouchy friend turning happy for once. (chime)

**\*\*Page 16\*\***

\*(Illustration: The group playing a gentle game, like tossing a fruit back and forth.)\*

After eating, we all played some fun games.

Dinny taught us kangaroo hopping races. I tried, but my tail got in the way.

Billy Bird led a flying tag game—well, for those with wings.

Croc-AH-dil-ee splashed water gently for fun.

Mockingbird repeated the rules... mostly correctly!

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\*(Illustration: Linus telling a kingly story to the group sitting in a circle.)\*

Then I told a royal story about a brave lion who fixed mix-ups with friendship.

My friends listened wide-eyed.

"That's you, Linus!" Billy Bird said.

I puffed up proudly. "Of course! A king must be lionhearted."

Grouse nodded. "And have good friends." (chime)

**\*\*Page 18\*\***

\*(Illustration: The sun starting to set, friends looking content around the picnic remnants.)\*

As the sun began to set, painting the jungle orange and pink, we packed up.

"Best picnic ever," Dinny declared.

"I agree," Croc-AH-dil-ee grinned.

Billy Bird fluttered happily.

Even Mockingbird repeated softly, "Best picnic ever."

**\*\*Page 19\*\***

\*(Illustration: Sasha Grouse helping carry baskets, looking much happier.)\*

Grouse helped carry the baskets without one grumble.

"We should do this again," he said shyly.

We all agreed in our ways. It was a pleasant change of heart for our grouchy friend.  
(chime)

**\*\*Page 20\*\***

\*(Illustration: The group walking back home together through the jungle path.)\*

We walked home together along the jungle path, chatting and laughing about Mockingbird's silly repetitions.

For the next picnic I'd plan, I promised to my friends, "No more mix-ups next time."

"No more mix-ups next time," Mockingbird repeated.

We all chuckled.

**\*\*Page 21\*\***

\*(Illustration: Linus back in his throne chair at home, waving goodbye to friends.)\*

Back at my throne, I waved to my friends as they headed to their homes. "Goodnight, subjects!"

Billy Bird, Dinny, Croc-AH-dil-ee, Grouse, and even Mockingbird called back, "Goodnight, Linus!" (chime)

**\*\*Page 22\*\***

\*(Full-page illustration: Stars twinkling over the peaceful jungle, friends' homes lit warmly, with Linus smiling wisely in his throne.)\*

**\*\*Page 23\*\***

The jungle grew quiet under the starry sky. Everyone slept happily, dreaming of picnics and adventures. Friendship had turned a mix-up into something wonderful.

And that's how I, Linus the Lionhearted, learned that even annoying repetitions and grouchy moods can lead to fun when friends work together. (chime)

**\*\*Page 24\*\***

\*(Illustration: All friends together in a group hug or wave, with Linus in the center, big smiles all around.)\*

So remember, my friends: Be brave, be kind, and always share a laugh—even if someone repeats it twice!

(play the song “Just One Lion,” originally from the Linus the Lionhearted LP album)

Well, my friends, that brings us to the end of our story.

On digital	On CD	On audiocassette
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That's all for now.