

By Aesop

A detailed illustration of a white mouse standing on a wooden pedestal, holding a large, ornate bell. The mouse is wearing a red sash and has a happy expression. A bright spotlight shines down on the mouse and the bell. Below the pedestal, several other mice are gathered, looking up at the mouse on the pedestal with various expressions of interest and surprise. The background is dark with some faint lights, suggesting an indoor setting.

**Belling the
Cat**

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Belling the Cat

By Aesop

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Belling the Cat



The Mice once called a meeting to decide on a plan to free themselves of their enemy, the Cat. At least they wished to find some way of knowing when she was coming, so they might have time to run away. Indeed, something had to be done, for they lived in such constant fear of her claws that they hardly dared stir from their dens by night or day.

Many plans were discussed, but none of them was thought good enough. At last a very young Mouse got up and said:

"I have a plan that seems very simple, but I know it will be successful. All we have to do is to hang a bell about the Cat's neck. When we hear the bell ringing, we will know immediately that our enemy is coming."

All the Mice were much surprised that they had not thought of such a plan before. But in the midst of the rejoicing over their good fortune, an old Mouse arose and said:

"I will say that the plan of the young Mouse is very good. But let me ask one question: Who will bell the Cat?"

It is one thing to say that something should be done, but quite a different matter to do it.

Moral of the Story

The moral of "Belling the Cat" for children is that it's easy to come up with ideas but often much harder to carry them out. The story shows that while it's good to think of solutions to problems, we must also consider if those solutions are realistic and how we can actually make them happen.

This teaches us to not only be creative in thinking of solutions but also practical and brave when it comes to putting those ideas into action. It's a reminder to think things through and ask tough questions like "Who will bell the cat?" before celebrating an idea as a success.

— THE END —

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