



母獅的故事 THE LIONESS

有一個夏日，森林的天氣剛剛好，不大熱又有雲遮日，最適宜到外面走走。森林裏的媽媽都帶孩子出來玩。猴子在樹上盪來盪去吱吱叫。小狗互相追尾，小樹懶吊在樹上睡着了，掉了下來但仍然繼續睡。狐狸媽媽帶着小狐狸來了，雞媽媽慌忙招攷小雞回到自己身邊，催促他們快走。兔媽媽留守在小兔旁邊，鵝媽媽帶著三隻哇哇叫的小鵝一搖一擺的走過來閒談。

“看，我的孩子多健康！”鵝媽媽說：“三個都長得胖胖的！你現在有多少孩子呢？”

“八個，”兔媽媽得意地說，滿足地看着小兔。“八個，每一個都挺可愛的。我真有福！”

狗媽媽有點妒意。“我上一胎有四個，”她說：“下一胎應該不止。”

ON A SUMMER'S day, when the forest was just hot enough and shady enough for a pleasant afternoon out, the forest mothers took their children to play. Little monkeys swung through the branches, chattering at each other, puppies chased each other's tails, and a baby sloth hung asleep in a tree and fell off without waking up. Mother Fox arrived with her young, and Mother Hen gathered all her chickens together and hurried them away. The rabbit stayed near to her babies as Mother Goose marched over for a chat, with three gawky little goslings waddling along behind her.

"Aren't my babies doing well?" said Mother Goose. "All three of them, all thriving! How many young ones do you have now?"

"Eight," said the rabbit proudly, watching her little ones. "Eight, and all adorable. Aren't I lucky!"

Mother Dog felt a little jealous. "I had four in my last litter," she said. "I expect it will be more next time."

