

The Cat and the Bell

The mice once held a conference to decide on a plan to free themselves of their enemy, the cat. They needed a way of knowing when she was coming, so they had time to run away. Indeed, something had to be done; they lived in constant fear of her claws and didn't dare to leave their homes.

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They discussed many plans, 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 work. All we have to do is hang a bell around the cat's neck. When we hear the bell ringing, we will know immediately that our enemy is coming."

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All the mice were surprised that they had not thought of such a plan before. But in the midst of their rejoicing, an old mouse arose and said, "The plan of the young mouse is very good, but let me ask one question: Who will put the bell on the cat?"

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

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What was the young mouse's plan?

What was the problem with the plan?

What is the lesson that this story teaches?