

Surprised!

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<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/henri-rousseau-surprised>

Henri Rousseau, self-taught artist

1891, France (*find on the globe*)

130x162 cm (*measure*)

- What do you see? Colors, patterns, etc.
- What is happening? Who is surprised?
- Where do you think Rousseau got his ideas from? He said it was from the jungles in Mexico (*find on the globe*), when in reality he had never left France. House plants, botanical gardens, the Zoo.

The Story:

- Tiger was very beautiful, but very proud, arrogant, haughty.

What does this mean? Show me how a haughty tiger would walk through the jungle.

- One of his favorite things to do was to sneak up on unsuspecting animals and surprise them with a ROAR!! He would laugh and laugh!

Examples....

- As you can imagine, he didn't have many friends as they were either annoyed with his constant games or scared to death.
- One day while Tiger was out hunting and looking for some animal to terrify, a storm broke out.

Have you ever been caught in a storm?

- This was no ordinary rain. There was thunder and lightning! Trees were snapping.
- For the first time in his life, it was the TIGER who was terrified! He didn't know which way was which.
- There was one small animal that was also out in the storm, but not afraid at all.

Who was the animal? Maybe an animal that comes out in the rain? (our group chose a snail!)

- He was making his way through the jungle and almost ran right into the tiger!!
- And to his great surprise, he noticed that the tiger was crying!

What would you do if you were the animal? What could he have done? Run, laugh, call his friends over to tease the crying kitty.

- He was not like the proud tiger who liked to see others suffer. He cautiously approached the great beast.
- He called up to him, but his voice was too small, even when he yelled with all his might.
- He bravely tapped the tiger, but his soaking coat prevented him from feeling anything.
- He climbed up the tiger's back and pulled his ear. Still nothing!
- Finally, he climbed out onto the nose of the tiger and waved his arms.
- You know what the tiger did? AAAAHHHHHHH! The tiger let out such a surprised cry that the animal fell off and landed at the Tiger's feet.
- "I didn't mean to scare you. You look lost." The tiger couldn't even speak, he just nodded vigorously as his cold, wet body shook. "Come with me."
- The Tiger followed/held the animal's tail/shell as they made their way through the jungle.
- It turns out that they were not very far at all from the tiger's den, which was a large cave in the jungle.
- "Why did you do this for me?" asked the Tiger.

What was the animal's response?

- The tiger was amazed at the big, gracious heart and courage of such a small creature who taught him a most important lesson. And from then on...

What did the tiger do?

- He became a defender, protector of the smallest animals and his cave was always a safe place where other animals could escape from the storms.