

Somali Bilingual Book Project
The Lion's Share/Qayb Libaax
Sample reader's theater script

*Adapted from the **The Lion's Share/Qayb Libaax**, retold by Said Salah Ahmed (an extra character, Sister Fox, has been added to this script – for a total of 8 parts)*

Characters:

<i>Narrator 1</i>	<i>Cheetah</i>	<i>Lady Fox</i>
<i>Narrator 2</i>	<i>Lion</i>	<i>Sister Fox</i>
<i>Narrator 3</i>	<i>Hyena</i>	

Narrator 1: What luck on such a bright day!

Narrator 2: The beasts of prey were hunting together in the forests of Somalia. Late in the afternoon they found a big fat camel.

Narrator 3: The beasts attacked. They caught the camel and killed it.

Cheetah: Together we dragged the camel's body under a shady acacia tree.

Narrator 1: They gathered around and waited patiently for a bite.

Cheetah: We are very hungry, but we don't dare touch the meat without the lion's permission.

Narrator 2: The lion roared...

Lion: R-O-A-R!!!

Narrator 2: ... warning the animals not to eat before he gave his approval. All were silent.

Narrator 3: Picking the eldest of the hyenas, the lion ordered...

Lion: Ali, with the short leg, you tell us the best way of dividing the meat.

Hyena: Yes, my lord. (thinking) Divide it half and half. Half is for our king, and the other half is for the rest of us. We will divide it fairly among us.

Cheetah: The mighty lion suddenly jumped at the old hyena and slapped his face. The hyena's eye fell out of its socket.

Narrator 1: The old hyena limped away in disgrace.

Lion: R-O-A-R! You see, Ali the hyena did not know the proper way of dividing the meat among us!

Narrator 2: Lion glared at the other animals and pointed to the foxes.

Lion: You! Dayo the lady fox and your sister! Let us see if you do better than that unwise hyena.

Narrator 3: The foxes crawled forward with fear. They bowed before the king and whispered...

Lady Fox: Very well, half and half. Half of the camel meat will go to our great king. And the other half...

Sister Fox: ... Of the other half, quarter and quarter: one quarter is also for our king!

Lady Fox: Of the other quarter, one-eighth and one-eighth. One eighth is for the king!

Sister Fox: Of the other eighth, one sixteenth...

Cheetah: The lion broke out in laughter and the rest of us pretended to laugh too.

Lion: ... one sixteenth is for me too!!! Wonderful! Fox sisters, who taught you this way of dividing the meat?

Lady Fox: Your majesty, we learned this ...

Sister Fox: ...from the eye that is hanging from the hyena's cheek.

Narrator 1: Now the beasts understood the real meaning of the lion's share.

Narrator 2: The lion pulled his huge share into his den.

Narrator 3: Very little was left for the rest of the animals.

Cheetah: We all worked to hunt the camel, but we got very little to eat. We're still hungry!

All: The lion's share is not fair! The lion's share is not fair!