The Heir of the Lion King

By William D
On a continent, not very far away, the Lion King joyfully had three healthy cubs. He named them Simon, William, and Henry. Over the years, the cubs grew into strong, brave lions. As the King grew older, he began wondering who would become King. The King finally decided to host a competition.
One day the King gathered his sons and said, "Golden crowns are hidden in the jungle, the desert and on the island. Whoever brings a crown back first, will be my heir. Now choose a place to hunt." Simon chose the jungle, William picked the desert, and poor Henry was left with the island.
After choosing, Simon strode toward the jungle. He ran from a hunter for hours without a rest. Unfortunately, he was shot in the leg. As he cleaned his wound, he thought about the dangers from disease, poison dart frogs, traps, and more hunters he would face. He feared he would die before reaching his destiny. So he decided to steal the golden crown from a cobra.
Meanwhile, William was deep in the desert enduring a sandstorm. While he crouched there, he pondered if he would survive from all the sandstorms and scorpions. William knew he was already low on water and if he stayed he would die. So, as the sandstorm ended, William robbed a camel’s crown and ran home.
While his brothers were returning home, Henry was preparing for his journey. Henry built a galleon and loaded plenty of supplies onto it. He said goodbye to his father and promised that he'd return safely. Then, as the high winds began to blow, Henry set off.
When Henry finally arrived at the island, he was exhausted from battling pirates, scurvy, and storms. Unwilling to give up, he searched everywhere on the island before returning to his ship empty handed. Exhausted, disappointed, and discouraged, Henry headed home.
When all three sons arrived, the king, at first, was disappointed. But then he saw that Henry didn’t bring a crown. Bursting with joy, the King shouted, “Henry is the heir to the throne!” All three sons were shocked. Simon and William cried, “Why is Henry the heir when he has no crown!” The King reviewed, “There is no golden crown!” Then, the King explained, “I expect my heir to be not only strong and brave, but also HONEST, and that is Henry.”