



# THE LION KING

PEAMUN XII | November 8, 2020





## Letter from Chair

Hi everyone! I am so excited to welcome you to the first ever PEAMUN Virtual Conference! My name is Sophie Fernandez, and I will be the chair of The Lion King crisis committee. I am a junior from Memphis, Tennessee and have participated in Model UN since fifth grade. This is my first time chairing a committee, but was a crisis staffer for the North Korean Cabinet crisis committee at our conference last year. Outside of Model UN, I am a co-head to our cooking club and I run track in the winter and spring. My major study interest at school is Russian and I'm confident enough to say that I've grown pretty proficient.

I've chosen the topic of this committee to be The Lion King and below you will find the background guide and character portfolios. The background guide will give you an overview of The Lion King, The Lion King II: Simba's Pride, and The Lion King 1 ½. I recommend that you watch these movies to understand the complete storyline in preparation for the committee; however, I am writing the brief summary in case there is any delegate who is unable to.

The committee will start after the death of Mufasa and the disappearance of Simba. With the threat of Scar's coup d'etat, the animal kingdom is in crisis. It is our job as a committee to solve the unrest and restore balance within the kingdom. There is so much that can happen in this committee so I am so eager to see what solutions are presented through directives and how delegates react to crisis updates. I hope that this committee will be fast-paced and engaging. If you have any questions about anything don't hesitate to email me!

Best,

Sophie Fernandez

[sfernandez@exeter.edu](mailto:sfernandez@exeter.edu)



## **Table of Contents**

Committee Description	3
Questions to Consider	5
Movie History	5
<i>The Lion King</i>	6
<i>The Lion King II : Simba's Pride</i>	7
<i>The Lion King 1 ½</i>	10
Note About Committee Direction	12
Helpful Resources	12
Position Papers	12
Character Portfolios	13
Bibliography	18



## **Committee Description**

The Lion King committee falls under the category of a Crisis committee, which is very different from ECOSOC committees or General Assemblies. Crisis committees have a smaller number of delegates playing roles and are more fast-paced. Delegates have to be able to come up with quick, real-time solutions to solve problems that are presented to them within the committee. There is no way to anticipate what the crisis updates will be before the committee starts and the direction of the committee is dependent on the decisions that the delegates make. There are two parts to a crisis committee: the committee itself, called the front room, and the backroom. The front room is the committee and place where directives are passed and delegates debate with each other. The back room decides on crises presented to the committee and responds to the crisis notes that delegates pass. Because these notes can significantly affect front room affairs, it is important to pass detailed notes. The back room essentially steers events that happen in committee and has the power to redirect front room affairs with crisis updates, so delegates should be aware of information provided by the back room.

There are three actions a delegate or the committee can make. The first is a press release. A press release is written by a delegate or committee addressing the general public. In this committee, the general public in the animal kingdom. The second is a directive. A directive can not be taken back once it has been turned into the chair and once they are passed by the committee, they can not be changed. The back room will react appropriately when directives are passed, giving directives the potential to change the flow of the debate entirely. The third and final action that a delegate could take is the crisis note. A crisis note gives a delegate direct communication with the back room. You can even use crisis notes to communicate with a character that is not present within the committee in order to achieve your personal goals. The general goal of crisis



notes is to help delegates achieve their own goals. There is more information about these courses of action on our website, [peamun.org](http://peamun.org), under the resource tab. Crisis committees can be very intense and challenging and with the added challenges of a virtual conference, we will be taking frequent breaks throughout the committee sessions.

Obviously, research for this committee is not as intense as a historical committee; however, I recommend that you learn about your character through reading my character portfolios and watching the movies. The most important thing to do in order to prepare for this committee is to arrive with some personal goals and have a plan of action.

Lastly, I want to address what the overall feel of the committee will look like. Of course this committee is *The Lion King*, which means that it is set in the animal kingdom. All the delegates will be assigned a particular character from the movie or an animal also from the movie. It's important to realize that especially for this committee that your characters don't necessarily have specific powers unlike how other historical crises would. The way that I imagine the committee working is that your powers are set by what role your animal would play in nature. For example, meerkats are very low level animals in the animal kingdom; however, they have power in numbers. This is the kind of thinking and creativity I would like to see in this committee. In the character portfolios I have written a little bit about each one of your characters. If you have any questions please email me at [sfernandez@exeter.edu](mailto:sfernandez@exeter.edu).



### **Questions to Consider**

- Do delegates fall prey to Scar's coup d'état or do they adopt another system of government?
- How will the battle between Mufasa's Loyalists and Scar's Hyenas be settled?
- Will the other animals in Mufasa's kingdom speak out against the unwanted, new ruler?
- Will Simba retake the throne or will another animal seize control?
- How will Simba return to the Pride Land after his disappearance?

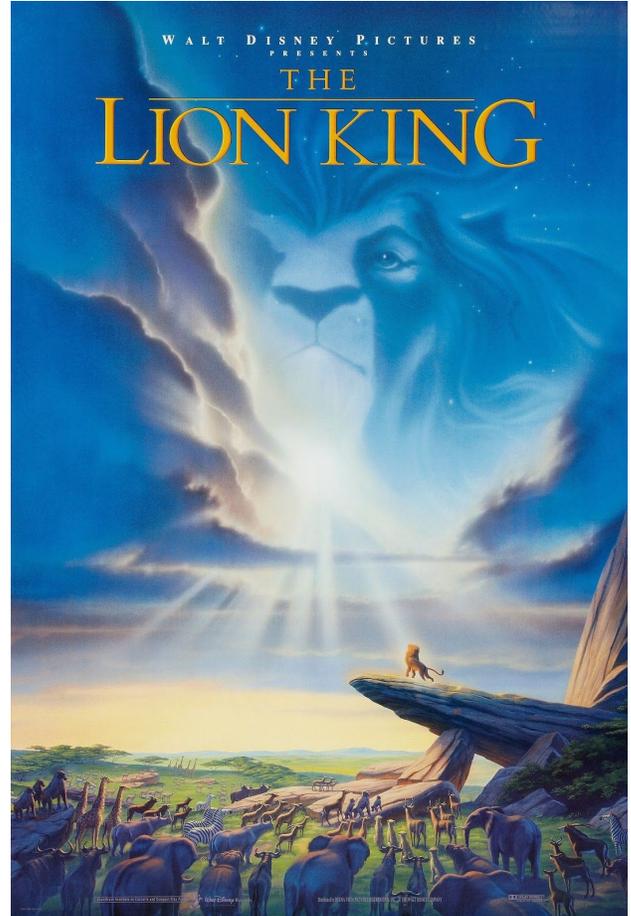
### **Movie History**

Writing for The Lion King started in 1988 and was finally released in 1994. There were many people who worked on the movie; however, the main creditors are Roger Allers, Rob Minkoff, and Don Hahn. Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff both directed the movie while Don Hahn produced the movie. During the development of The Lion King, the staff went to Hell's Gate National Park in Kenya to research for the film and gain inspiration for the scenery and animals. In addition to this research, it is said that the film was also influenced by the biblical stories of Moses and Joseph, as well as William Shakespeare's Hamlet. The film was a huge success after its release in 1994, becoming the highest-grossing release of 1994. This is just a little background to the film. However, if you are interested in learning more, then I encourage you to look into its history in greater depth.



## Overview: The Lion King

The birth of Simba, son of King Mufasa, leaves Scar second in line to the throne. Scar then plots to kill Simba and his brother Mufasa, leaving him as the only eligible member of the royal family to be king. With the help of the hyenas, Scar kills Mufasa and makes Simba believe that he was responsible for his father's death. Simba flees to the desert and almost perishes from dehydration before he is found by Pumbaa, a warthog, and Timon, a meerkat. The two help to replenish Simba's strength and invite him to stay with them in their jungle paradise. In the following years, Simba grows into a care-free



adult lion while the Pride Lands gradually become a wasteland under the rule of Scar. As king, Scar only lays around all day chewing on bones while the rest of the animals almost starve. The hyenas — Banzai, Shenzi, and Ed — go to Scar complaining about the lack of food but are dismissed after mistakenly mentioning Mufasa.

Meanwhile, Rafiki, a Mandrill Monkey that appeared at the beginning of the movie, realizes that Simba is alive. He is excited for the return of Simba, who can rightfully take back the throne. Back in the jungle, Pumbaa, Timon, and Simba meet Nala, Simba's childhood best friend. Simba recognizes Nala and she tells them about the struggles that they are facing in the Pride



Lands. Nala tries to convince Simba to retake the throne but he refuses, leaving her furious. Eventually, Simba meets Rafiki, who convinces him to return to the Pride Lands. Simba's friends decide to follow him back.

Nala goes to convince the lionesses to help Simba while Simba goes to find Scar. When Simba finds Scar, he sees his mother being lectured by Scar for not hunting. Simba confronts Scar but Scar accuses Simba of killing his father, Mufasa. Simba accepts the accusation and Scar uses the opportunity to fight Simba over the edge of a cliff. Just like his father, Simba clings to the cliff while Scar explains that it was him not Simba that killed Mufasa. Out of anger, Simba again attacks Scar, finally getting the truth out of him. The hyenas and the lions start fighting after the truth comes out but Scar is able to escape the fighting. Simba follows him and Scar pleads for forgiveness explaining that the hyenas are the real enemies.

The hyenas are angered by the remark made by Scar and back away. Scar attacks Simba again but ends up falling off the edge of the cliff. At the bottom the hyenas surround him. Simba becomes the king of the Pride Lands and soon all the animals return. At the end of the movie, Rafiki holds Simba and Nala's newborn lion cub in the air for the entire animal kingdom to see.

### **Overview: The Lion King II: Simba's Pride**

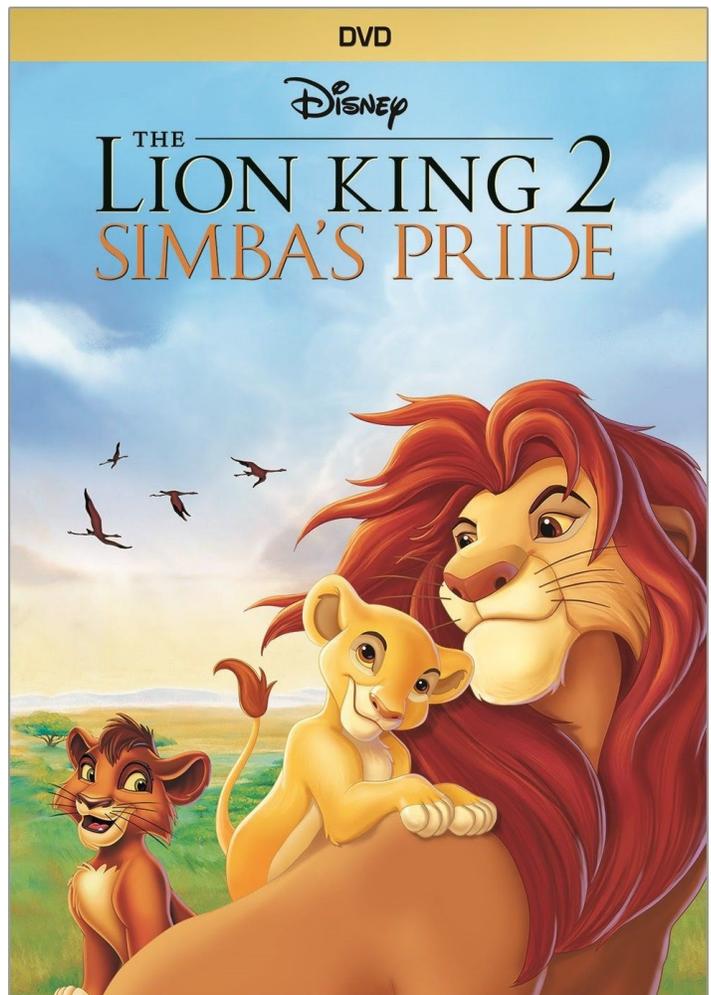
This movie starts at the same place where The Lion King ended — with Rafiki holding Simba and Nala's newborn cub, Kiara. Because Simba becomes concerned over Kiara's stubbornness and the trouble she could get herself into, he assigns Pumbaa and Timon to look after her. However, Kiara runs off to the forbidden lands when she finds out about this. The forbidden Outlands are where the banished lionesses live, as they supported Scar during his rule. As Kiara goes into the forbidden Outlands, she runs into another cub named Kovu. They become friends and



head back into the Pride Lands; however, nearby, Kovu's mother, Zira, is watching them. Zira is the leader of the banished lionesses. Simba goes to get Kiara and is confronted by Zira. She tells him about the injustices that the lionesses experienced and that the place they live is a wasteland. Soon the two groups leave each other and go back to their lands. Kovu and Kiara say goodbye to each other not knowing if they will see each other again.

When they return, Simba is angry at Kiara for not obeying him and he tells her of the responsibilities as the next queen. Kiara explains that she doesn't like the idea of being queen. Meanwhile in the forbidden Outlands, Zira concludes that she can use Kovu and Kiara's friendship against Simba. She gets this idea after Vitani, Kovu's older sister, and Nuka, Kovu's older brother, complain about Kovu being the "chosen one."

Years pass and Kiara becomes an adult lioness. She embarks on her first hunting trip alone. Simba is still nervous about her going alone because of her troublesome personality. So once again, Simba sends Pumbaa and Timon to look after her and of course Kiara grows angry and runs away. However, Zira is also starting to move forward with her plans. She sends Nuka and Vitani to sneak into Simba's pride and set the plains on fire. Kiara gets caught up





in the flames and then faints. She is then saved by Kovu who carries her to safety.

After Simba hears of this he goes to Kiara and Kovu pleads to join their pride. He claims that he has left the banished and wants to be judged based on who he is. Simba agrees to let him join the pride but he makes him sleep outside the rock where he also agrees to teach Kiara how to hunt better. That night, Simba has a dream where Kovu becomes the new Scar and ends up killing him.

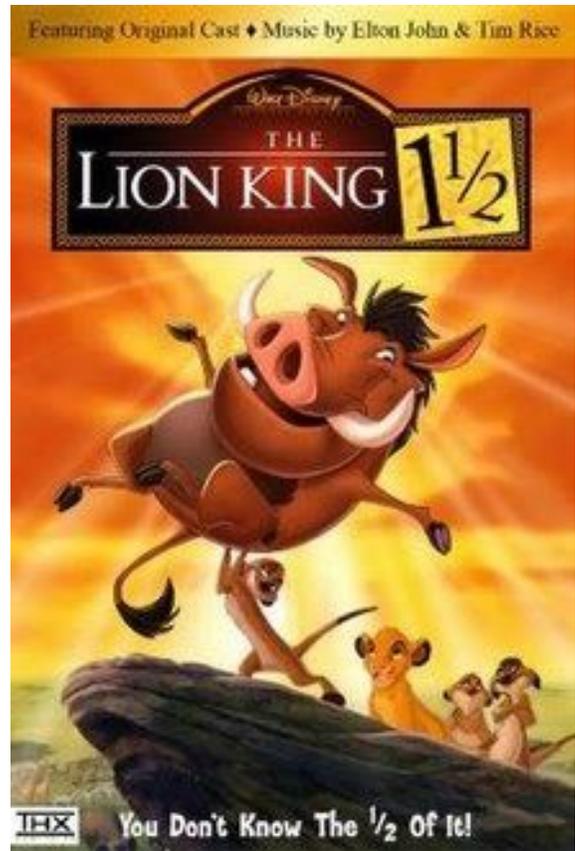
In the morning, Simba goes to the water hole alone. However, Kovu is there waiting to kill him but soon Kiara arrives and Kovu and her go off together. After spending time with Kiara, Kovu begins to grow feelings for her and starts to become conflicted about his mission.

That night Simba decides to give Kovu a chance and invites him to sleep inside. Meanwhile, Vitani sees Kovu's failed attempt to kill Simba and reports it back to Zira. In the morning, Simba walks with Kovu and tells him the real story of Scar which he had never heard. However, on the walk, Zira and the outcasts intervene and ambush Simba. Simba manages to run away but Nuka is killed. Zira blames Kovu and scars his face. Kovu goes back to Pride Rock but is then banished by Simba and Kiara is told she can't leave Pride Rock. Soon Kiara escapes and meets Kovu on the plains. He explains that they should run away together but Kiara disagrees and says that then the two prides would never be united. As Kiara and Kovu are talking, Zira is leading her group to take Pride Rock finally. The two prides face off, leading to Simba and Zira fighting. However, Kiara and Kovu show up and stand between them. Kiara says that, "We are one" and explains that it means all lions no matter what pride. Her words help everyone except Zira who is still fueled by anger. In the fight, Zira almost falls off the cliff, hanging from her claws. Kiara reaches to help her but Zira chooses to die instead. At the end of the movie, everyone is at the Pride Rock and Kiara, Nala, Kovu, and Simba all stand at the top.



### Overview: The Lion King 1 ½

Instead of focusing on Simba and the pride, this movie focuses on the perspective of Timon and Pumbaa. The film starts with a narration from Pumbaa and Timon and they explain that they are going to tell their version of the story. We first see where Timon is from and his life where the meerkats live which is the desert. The meerkats entrust Timon and his Uncle Max to hyena watch but instead of doing his job he sings. Then the three hyenas we know from the original The Lion King movie show up and attack their “village.” All the meerkats are saved. Timon feels like an outcast and after talking



with Ma (his mother) he decides to leave his meerkat home. After leaving his home, he runs into Rafiki where he learns about the phrase, “Hakuna Matata,” and decides to go to Pride Rock; however, on the way there he meets Pumbaa. Timon asks Pumbaa to go with him to Pride Rock. When they arrive, they see all the animals gathered around the rock and see Rafiki holding Simba. Timon makes a home in the Pride Lands and then Pumbaa starts to leave but then they decide to stay together.

One morning Timon and Pumbaa wake up and hear singing from outside their home. They decide to leave the Pride Lands and find themselves in the elephant graveyard where the hyenas inhabit. Timon decides to make it their new home but they run into the hyenas which drives them



out. Later they witness the stampede in the valley which is where Mufasa dies and they get knocked into a river and down a waterfall.

They finally find their dream home after falling down the waterfall and waking up on the shore. We then see a scene where Rafiki tells Timon's mom about how he told him about, "Hakuna Matata." Ma decides to go after Timon because she thinks that he isn't going to make it. At this point, Timon and Pumbaa find Simba and start to raise him. They act like his parents and Simba is very troublesome.

We then fast forward to the future where Simba is a teenager and Simba and Timon have a snail eating contest. Timon becomes like Simba's father and Simba even addresses him as "Pa." And then again the film fast forwards again to Simba's adult years where he finds Nala again. Timon and Pumbaa hate the idea of Nala coming back and finding Simba.

That night Simba leaves and Nala explains to Timon and Pumbaa what is happening and Timon decides to stay in the jungle paradise while Pumbaa follows Simba. However, Timon becomes lonely and runs into Rafiki. Rafiki makes Timon realize that he needs his friends and goes after them.

Back at Pride Rock, they help distract the hyenas and find their family. Timon is able to see Uncle Max and Ma and Timon introduces them to Pumbaa. They watch the fighting between Simba and Scar and decide to set a trap to help Simba. So Uncle Max and Ma dig tunnels while Pumbaa and Timon get the hyenas' attention. Then they set their trap into action and get rid of the hyenas. Ma is very proud of Timon and so is Uncle Max. The end of the film is the same as the original The Lion King, except Timon takes Ma to the jungle paradise with Pumbaa.



### **Note about Committee Direction (PLEASE READ)**

I wanted to address an important topic that new delegates may not know before the committee starts. Yes, it is important to learn about the movies in order to understand the personalities that your character has; however, when inside the committee do not feel obligated to copy the storyline from the films. You should take advantage of the back room to develop your personal goals and even form new ones that your character may have not had before. This makes the committee a lot more enjoyable for both the delegates and the chairs.

### **Helpful Resources**

The movies are the best resources; however, there are many different articles written about the storyline and characters. I recommend that you read an article about your own character because there are character analyses available on the internet. This may allow you to understand your character better and help you develop ideas for the committee. Of course, this committee does not require a lot of research prior to the conference, but it is a good idea to have an understanding of your character.

### **Position Papers**

Position papers are not required at PEAMUN, but if you are interested in writing one and getting comments, feel free to email me before the conference at [sfernandez@exeter.edu](mailto:sfernandez@exeter.edu). Also, contact me with any questions you might have about the structure of the committee, your character, or how to prepare. You can also visit our website, [peamun.org](http://peamun.org), which has many helpful resources, or sites such as BestDelegate that has resources on everything involving Model UN.



## **Character Portfolios**

*Note about characters: I feel like the general rule for your characters is that they should have the same concerns and worries that the animals would have in nature. So for example, a giraffe would care a lot about access to water and food. Of course, they would also care about potential threats from carnivores that could eat them. So the general rule of thumb should be that you should learn about what animal you are playing and also develop personal goals that match the events in the movies. (Starting from Mufasa's death)*

### **Scar (Lion)**

Scar is the brother to Mufasa and the uncle to Simba. In the original Lion King movie, Scar works with the hyenas to kill Mufasa and scare away Simba in order to gain control over the Pride Lands. He ruled as a bitter tyrant. However, this committee will start the moment that Scar kills Mufasa and Simba has disappeared. Although Scar is the only lion who can take over the throne by default, he will still be required to carry out more actions to secure his seat at the throne. He does not care much for other animals besides himself and is quick to betray others.

### **Simba (Lion)**

Simba is Mufasa's son. At the beginning of the committee, Simba is believed to have died along with his father by the animals of the Pride Lands. Evidence of his existence will put Scar's control over the Pride Lands in peril. While Simba lives in the jungle paradise with Pumbaa and Timon, he adopts his friends' values and becomes very care-free. However, Simba still remains young and vulnerable to outside influence. The death of his father weighs heavily on his shoulders, and he continues to blame himself for the tragedy.



### **Zazu (Hornbill Bird)**

Zazu was Mufasa's secondhand man, but later becomes trapped in a cage of bones under Scar's rule. Although he remains loyal to Simba, Zazu will obey whoever is king. As an advisor to the king, he has the power over to order other animals around in the Pride Lands. Other animals see him as trustworthy and as a figure of power within the ruling family.

### **Nala (Lioness)**

Nala is Simba's childhood best friend. Due to her excellent fighting abilities and high intelligence, she is a valuable member of the pride and one of the best hunters in the Pride Lands. While she is feared by other animals in the Pride Lands, she is deeply respected by her fellow lions.

### **Shenzi (Hyena)**

Shenzi is one of the three hyenas that plotted with Scar to kill Mufasa. She lives in the Elephant Graveyard with her pack and is one of Scar's chief henchmen. She has expressed hatred toward the lions, a sentiment shared by many hyenas, as she believes that her pack would rule the Pride Lands if lions were not in power.

### **Rafiki (Mandrill Monkey)**

Rafiki serves as the shaman of the Pride Lands. Despite his eccentric demeanor and appearance, he is very wise and deeply connected to spiritual elements, including Mufasa's spirit. Rafiki was a close friend of Mufasa's while the lion was alive. In the Pride Lands, he presents newborns on a cliff for all residents to see and provides spiritual advice to others, namely Simba. Rafiki is also



loyal to the ruler of the Pride Lands.

### **Uncle Max (Meerkat)**

Uncle Max is Timon's uncle who lives outside of the Pride Lands. He is not loyal to any particular group besides the meerkats, and is paranoid of other animals that might eat him. Uncle Max has the power to control the other meerkats and is in possession of some land outside of the Pride Lands.

### **Pumbaa (Warthog)**

Pumbaa is best friends with Timon. The two of them found Simba stranded in the desert after Mufasa's death and chased the buzzards off of the young lion, thinking he was already dead. While Timon was initially afraid of Simba due to him being a top predator, Pumbaa convinced his best friend that it may be worthwhile to raise Simba to be on their side. The pair brought Simba back to their jungle home and taught him the "Hakuna Matata" lifestyle. Pumbaa supports Simba's endeavors.

### **Timon (Meerkat)**

Timon is best friends with Pumbaa. The two of them found Simba stranded in the desert after Mufasa's death and chased the buzzards off of the young lion, thinking he was already dead. While Timon was initially afraid of Simba due to him being a top predator, Pumbaa convinced him that it may be worthwhile to raise Simba to be on their side. The pair brought Simba back to their jungle home and taught him the "Hakuna Matata" lifestyle. Timon supports Simba's endeavors.



### **Sarabi (Lioness)**

Sarabi is Simba's mother, the late widow to Mufasa, and queen of the Pride Lands. She is an affectionate and supportive mother to Simba, but believes that both he and his father died in Wildebeest Valley. Sarabi has great influence among all lionesses and is highly respected by all animals in the Pride Lands.

### **Zira (Lioness)**

Zira is the wife of Scar and later becomes the leader of the banished lions. She has three children and a strong hatred of the Pride Lands. Because she believes that Simba killed Scar, she wants to retake the Pride Lands as an act of revenge.

### **Vulture**

The Vulture is one of two "buzzards" that circled and attempted to pick at Simba while he was stranded in the desert. As an animal that is always on the move between the Pride Lands and the forbidden Outlands, the Vulture is neutral and not loyal to either Scar or Simba.

### **Wildebeest**

The Wildebeest was unknowingly involved in Scar's plot to kill Mufasa and Simba. At Scar's signal, his hyenas triggered the stampede that killed Mufasa by attacking an ill Wildebeest. While Wildebeests are depicted as non-communicative animals in the Lion King films, they have great power in numbers. The Wildebeest is a major advocate for herbivores.



## **Zebra**

The Zebra is wary of the carnivores that rule over the Pride Lands and wishes for a savannah in which herbivores do not need to live in constant fear of predation. They have their eye on taking over the Pride Lands from the carnivores. Highly regarded within the world of plant eating animals and considered to be a leader. They hold no power within the central system that the lions rule over.

## **Cheetah**

The Cheetah is a carnivore high on the Pride Lands food chain. They advocate for a stable ecosystem in which all animals have enough food to eat, but also wishes to rule the Pride Lands instead of the lions. Their resentment towards the lions began during the rule of Mufasa and strengthened during Scar's time as king. The cheetahs hold a high status in the animal kingdom but always fall second to the lions, fueling their desire to rally support from other animals to take over the Pride Lands.

## **Elephant**

The Elephant is deeply upset by the elephant graveyard, which is currently a wasteland occupied by the hyenas. The Elephant strives to gain a proper burial place for their kind. As one of the largest animals in the Pride Lands and an herbivore that can consume up to 300 pounds of food a day, the Elephant is concerned by a recent lack of food in the savannah.



## **Bibliography**

Desta, Yohana. "The Lion King, Hand-Drawn Animation, and the Problem with Photo Realism." Vanity Fair. Last modified July 18, 2019. <https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2019/07/lion-king-remake-disney-photorealism-animation>.

The Picture used on the first page:"The Lion King." IMDb. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0110357/plotsummary>.

The Lion King 1 1/2. Produced by George A. Mendoza. Disney, 2004.

The Lion King. Produced by Jeffery Silver, Jon Favreau, and Karen Gilchrist. Disney, 1994.

"The Lion King 2: Simba's Pride." IMDb. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120131/plotsummary>.

The Lion King II: Simba's Pride. Produced by Dan Hahn. Directed by Rob Minkoff and Roger Allers. Disney, 1998.

"The Lion King." Wikipedia. Accessed August 7, 2020. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Lion\\_King#:~:text=The%20Lion%20King%20is%20a,released%20by%20Walt%20Disney%20Pictures.&text=Development%20of%20The%20Lion%20King,Thomas%20M](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lion_King#:~:text=The%20Lion%20King%20is%20a,released%20by%20Walt%20Disney%20Pictures.&text=Development%20of%20The%20Lion%20King,Thomas%20M).