



Disney **THE LION KING**

SENSORY SYNOPSIS

A GUIDE TO THE LIGHTS, SOUNDS & EMOTIONAL TRIGGERS

This guide is intended to help you prepare for The Lion King the musical. The aim is to warn you of any moments with loud noises, flashes of light and sudden or surprising movements. As well as narrative points with heightened emotion. The information below is a description of what happens at key points in the production.



This icon appears when we are alerting you to moments that might be perceived as sad.



This icon appears when we are alerting you to moments that might be emotional.







This icon alerts you to moments that might shock or surprise you, such as loud noises or sudden movements.




















This icon appears when there are flashes of light or sudden lighting changes.


















ACT ONE

SCENE	STORY	SENSORY	EMOTIONAL
SCENE 1: Presentation of Simba	Animals come from across the Savannah to welcome baby Simba at Pride Rock. Song: Circle of Life.	Animals (actors in costume and with masks and puppets) come through the auditorium. 	
SCENE 2: Scar and Mufasa	Mufasa comes to ask Scar why he wasn't at the presentation of Simba. Scar is angry that he isn't in line to the throne anymore.		<i>Themes of jealousy and rivalry.</i>  Scar and Mufasa are aggressive towards each other. 
SCENE 3: Rafiki's Tree	Rafiki speaks to us in an African language of their choice, Sotho, Xhosa or Zulu and paints Simba on the tree.		
SCENE 4: Mufasa & Simba's day out	Mufasa and Simba are playing in the grasslands and Mufasa shows him their kingdom. He warns him not to go beyond the borders. Zazu comes to warn Mufasa that there are Hyenas in the pridelands		
SCENE 5: Scar tricks Simba	Simba goes to visit Scar in his cave and talks about when he will be king. Scar is bitter and so he tells Simba about elephant graveyard, knowing that he will go there, even though it is dangerous.		
SCENE 6: Simba and Nala go to the Elephant Graveyard	The lionesses are hunting antelope. Simba tells Nala about the elephant graveyard and they ask to be excused to go and play - Nala's mother says they can, as long as Zazu goes with them. Song: I Just Can't Wait To be King	The song is loud. 	



SCENE	STORY	SENSORY	EMOTIONAL
SCENE 7: Elephant Graveyard	<p>Nala and Simba run away from Zazu and find the elephant graveyard.</p> <p>It is dark and creepy - Zazu finds them again and warns that they are in danger, then 3 hyenas appear and circle around them.</p> <p>Song: Chow Down</p> <p>Mufasa appears and roars loudly. He tells the hyenas to stay away from Simba. Mufasa is angry at Simba for disobeying him.</p>	<p>There are bursts of steam (dry ice) from the floor of the stage. </p> <p>The hyenas are loud and sometimes high-pitched. </p> <p>The song is loud. </p> <p>Mufasa's roars are loud </p>	<p><i>Themes of death and peril.</i> </p> <p>The graveyard is dark and creepy, filled with bones. </p> <p>The hyenas are threatening. </p> <p>The song is sinister. </p> <p>Simba and Nala are in danger. </p> <p>Scar is threatening and wants to cause harm to Simba. </p>
SCENE 8: Under the Stars	<p>Mufasa talks to Simba about what happened and then they play. Mufasa explains that on day he will be gone.</p> <p>Song: He Lives In You.</p>		<p><i>Theme of death.</i> </p> <p>Mufasa talks about death and separation.</p>
SCENE 9: Elephant Graveyard	<p>The hyenas are talking at the graveyard when Scar appears and talks about killing the cubs and Mufasa.</p> <p>Song: Be Prepared</p>	<p>The hyenas laughs are high-pitched and loud. </p> <p>The song is loud and menacing. </p> <p>Hyenas, actors in costume and with masks, come through the auditorium on the stalls level, singing loudly. </p>	<p>The graveyard is creepy and dark. </p> <p>The hyenas are aggressive and scary. </p> <p>Dozens of hyenas appear during the song and it can be overwhelming.</p> <p>Scar is scary and threatening. </p>
SCENE 9b: Zazu apologises to Mufasa	<p>Zazu apologises to Mufasa for not stopping Simba going to the graveyard.</p>		



SCENE	STORY	SENSORY	EMOTIONAL
<p>SCENE 10: Stampede</p>	<p>Scar tells young Simba that he has a surprise for him and leads him out into the pridelands.</p> <p>He teases him about his roar and encourages him to practice.</p> <p>Simba doesn't realise what his uncle is doing and roars as loudly as he can.</p> <p>The noise scares a herd of wildebeest and they begin to stampede.</p> <p>Mufasa runs to help Simba and manages to get Simba on to a cliff and out of the way.</p> <p>He calls to Scar to help him, who digs his claw in the Mufasa's paw and he falls in to the stampede.</p> <p>Simba runs to his father, but he has died.</p> <p>Scar tells Simba it is all his fault, so Simba runs away</p>	<p>This scene is very loud - the lights are red, and there are flashes. </p> <p>The music and drums are very loud. </p> <p>There are a lot of puppets and actors on stage and the stampede goes on for a long time.</p> <p>The music and rumbling continues to be loud, the lions are shouting at each other. </p>	<p><i>Themes of deceit, murder, death and betrayal.</i> </p> <p>Scar is tricking Simba, it is cruel and dangerous. </p> <p>The stampede is very scary, Simba is in severe danger of being crushed by the wildebeest. </p> <p>Mufasa is in danger and falls to his death. </p> <p>Simba finds Mufasa dead and is very sad. </p> <p>Scar orders the hyenas to kill Simba, so we are afraid for Simba's life. </p>
<p>Scene 11: Mufasa's Ceremony</p>	<p>We see the animals of Pride Rock mourning Mufasa, their King and Simba, their Prince.</p> <p>Scar is declared the next King and his hyenas appear and take over Pride Rock.</p>	<p>The animals cry and mourn. </p> <p>The hyenas appear and there are a lot of them. </p> <p>The lighting becomes dark and this can feel overwhelming. </p>	<p><i>Themes of death, grief and loss.</i> </p> <p>The animals are sad, mourning the loss of Simba and Mufasa. </p> <p>The hyenas feel overwhelming and threatening. </p>



SCENE	STORY	SENSORY	EMOTIONAL
Scene 12: Rafiki Mourns	Rafiki mourns Mufasa and Simba at her tree.		<i>Theme of loss and grief continues.</i> 😐
Scene 13: In The Jungle	We meet Timon and Pumbaa. They find Simba sleeping and decide to make friends with him. Song: Hakuna Matata	The song is loud. ⚠️ Black out at the end of the song. ⚡	

Interval: This is a 20 minute break in the performance for you to go to the toilet or get some drinks or a snack.











ACT TWO

SCENE	STORY	SENSORY	EMOTIONAL
ENTR'ACTE Orchestra	The animals of Pride Rock sing a song to keep themselves hopeful.	There are actors and puppets in the auditorium on all levels. They might come near you but don't worry, they won't touch you. ⚠️	
SCENE 1: The Madness of King Scar	Scar is gloomy because his rule isn't going well, the Pride Lands are barren, the animals are sad, hungry and miss Mufasa. Scar decides he needs a queen and that it should be Nala		<i>Themes of famine and unwanted romantic advances.</i> 😐 Scar's rule has made the Pride Lands barren and empty. The animals are hungry and desperate. 😐 The hyenas are hungry and aggressive. 😐 Scar wants to marry Nala which doesn't feel very safe for her. 😐



SCENE	STORY	SENSORY	EMOTIONAL
SCENE 2: Nala Leave The Pridelands	Nala doesn't want to marry Scar, so she must leave. We see her say goodbye to the Lionesses. Rafiki bids her farewell.		Sadness and grief that Nala has to leave. 😞
SCENE 3: Simba's Getting Restless	Song: The Lion Sleeps Tonight Timon, Pumbaa and Simba are in the jungle. When they try to cross a river, Timon falls in and gets carried downstream by the current. This causes Simba to have a flashback to the stampede.	The music and drums are loud, the characters are shouting. ⚠️	<i>Themes of PTSD and trauma, and mortal peril.</i> Timon is in trouble and we are scared for him. 😞 Simba remembers the trauma of the stampede. 😞
SCENE 4: Stars in the Jungle	Timon, Pumbaa and Simba talk about what they think the stars are. Song: Endless Night		
SCENE 5: Rafiki's Tree	Rafiki realises that Simba is alive.		
SCENE 6: Simba and Nala	Nala chases Pumbaa on to the stage and Simba protects them - Nala pins him to the ground and they suddenly realise who each other is. Song: Can You Feel The Love Tonight They talk about Simba returning to Pride Rock but he doesn't think he can - because he believes it is his fault that Mufasa died. Simba sees Mufasa in the pool and remembers who he is. Song: He Lives In You Simba decides to return to Pride Rock to confront Scar.		<i>Themes of romance.</i> 😞 This scene remembers Mufasa and reminds us of the grief. It is a little sad but also hopeful. 😞



SCENE	STORY	SENSORY	EMOTIONAL
SCENE 7: Simba and Scar at Pride Rock	<p>Simba and his friends arrive back at Pride Rock, ready to face Scar.</p> <p>Scar demands of Sarabi to hunt for more food and hits her. Simba appears and defends her.</p> <p>The animals battle and Scar and Simba end up fighting on the top of Pride Rock. They battle and finally Simba fights back and defeats Scar.</p> <p>He is honourable and doesn't kill him.</p> <p>Seeing him vulnerable, the Hyenas jump on Scar...</p> <p>Dawn breaks and the animals rejoice.</p> <p>Song: Circle of Life</p>	<p>The battle is loud and scary, there are a lot of animals on stage and there are flashing lights.  </p> <p>The volume in the final song is loud. </p> <p>Black out. </p>	<p><i>Scene contains fighting, aggression and threat of physical harm and death.</i> </p> <p>The hyenas are menacing and aggressive. </p> <p>Scar hits Sarabi. </p> <p>The animals fight. </p> <p>Scar overpowers Simba and we are scared that he might kill him, too. </p> <p>The hyenas attack Scar. </p>
Curtain call: The show is over now, the actors will bow and the audience will clap and cheer. This will be loud! You can join in if you want.			