Cloze Passage Exercise

**Directions:** Read the passage below; it comes from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Notice that there are words missing. Your job is to insert appropriate words that would make sense in the missing slots—a little like MadLibs. The difference in this passage is that all the same types of words are missing—verbs. Take about 10 minutes and see what you come up with. We’ll discuss this after you’re done.

“It’s a mystery,” __________ the Lion. “I ___________ I was born that way. All the other animals in the forest naturally ___________ me to be brave, for the Lion is everywhere thought to be the King of Beasts. I ___________ that if I ___________ very loudly, every living thing was frightened and ___________ out of my way. Whenever I’ve ___________ a man, I’ve been awfully scared; but I just ___________ at him, and he has always ___________ away as fast as he could go. If the elephants and the tigers and the bears had ever tried to ___________ me, I should have ___________ myself—I’m such a coward; but just as soon as they hear me ___________ they all try to ___________ away from me, and of course I let them ___________.”

Next, let’s discuss your approach to completing this assignment.

1. What was completing this like? Were some of the blanks easier to fill than others?
2. Did you try to pick words that were interesting, or ordinary, or just anything that would fit?
3. When you are writing, do you think much about picking just the right word, or do you just use words that fit and make sense?
4. Did all the verbs do the same thing in their sentence? Why? How can verbs be useful?

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Adapted by Mr. Victor

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