



with Jill Haywood

(adapted from a classical story by Rudyard Kipling)

trunk - trompa  
find out - esbrinar  
stretch - estirar  
politely - educadament  
wink - picar el ull  
suck - xuclar  
gratefully - agraït  
proud - orgullós



Avui en Story Time sentirem la llegenda de com va arivar l'elefant a tenir un nas tant tant llarg.

## The Elephant's Child

Long long ago, elephants had no **trunks**. They had big round noses. There was one young elephant who was very curious and had many questions.

Why was his uncle the giraffe so spotty?

Why did the hippopotamus swim so much?

Why were bananas yellow?

Why did melons taste sweet?

He asked questions about everything that he saw, or heard, or felt, or smelt, or touched, and he was still full of questions!

One morning the young Elephant asked a new question that he had never asked before. He asked: "What does the crocodile have for dinner?"

He waited for an answer. No-one answered.

Then Kolokolo bird said, with a sad cry: "Go to the banks of the great Limpopo River, and **find out**."

The next morning, the little elephant said to all his family: “Goodbye. I am going to the River to find out what the crocodile has for dinner.”

The little elephant had never seen a crocodile, and did not know what one looked like. The first thing that he found was a snake sitting on a rock.

“Excuse me,” said the Elephant’s Child most **politely**, “but have you seen a crocodile?”

“I know where you can find one” said the snake,

“Could you kindly tell me what he has for dinner?”

“I think you should talk to the crocodile.”

The elephant walked to the river and saw a strange animal in the water.

“Excuse me,” said the Elephant’s Child most politely, “but have you seen a crocodile?”

Then the Crocodile **winked** an eye, and lifted half his tail out of the water.

“Come here, little one,” said the crocodile. “Why do you ask?”

“I want to know”

“Come closer,” said the crocodile, “because I am a crocodile.”

Then the Elephant’s Child knelt down on the bank and said: “Oh I have been looking for you. Will you please tell me what you have for dinner?”

“Come here, little one,” said the crocodile, “and I’ll whisper.”

Then the Elephant’s Child put his head down close to the crocodile’s mouth, and the crocodile bit the little elephant’s nose

The Elephant’s Child was angry and frightened. He said, “Let go! You are hurting me!”

The snake who had followed the little elephant, slid down from the bank and said: “My young friend, pull as hard as you can or the crocodile will eat you.”

Then the Elephant’s Child pulled, and pulled, and pulled, and his nose began to **stretch**.

The crocodile pulled, and pulled, and pulled.  
And the Elephant's Child's nose kept on stretching;

He spread all his four little legs and pulled, and pulled, and pulled, and his nose kept on stretching; longer and longer

Then the snake came closer and **knotted** himself around the Elephant's Child's hind legs,  
So he pulled, and the Elephant's Child pulled, and the crocodile pulled; but the Elephant's Child and the snake pulled hardest; and at last the crocodile let go of the Elephant's Child's nose

The Elephant sat down suddenly. "Thank you for your help," he said to the snake **gratefully**.  
He waited for 3 days for his nose to go back to normal but his nose was still very long and strange.

At the end of the third day a fly came and stung him on the shoulder, and before he knew what he was doing he lifted up his trunk and hit that fly with the end of it.

"Ohhh, That's an advantage" said the snake.

An hour later the little elephant was hungry. Without thinking, he picked up a large bundle of grass, dusted it clean against his fore-legs, and stuffed it into his own mouth.

"Ohhhh Advantage number two!" said the snake. "You couldn't have done that with a small nose. Don't you think the sun is very hot here?"

"It is," said the Elephant's Child, and before he thought what he was doing he sucked up water from the river, and sprayed it over his back.

"Ohhhh Advantage number three!" said the snake.

"Thank you," said the Elephant's Child, "I'll remember that; and now I think I'll go home to my family!"

So the Elephant's Child went home across Africa. When he felt lonely walking through Africa he sang to himself down his trunk, and the noise was incredibly loud.

"It looks very ugly," said his uncle, the baboon when the little elephant arrived home.

“But it’s very useful,” said the elephant and he laughed. “I’m **proud** of my trunk!”

Since then, all elephants have had very useful long trunks!