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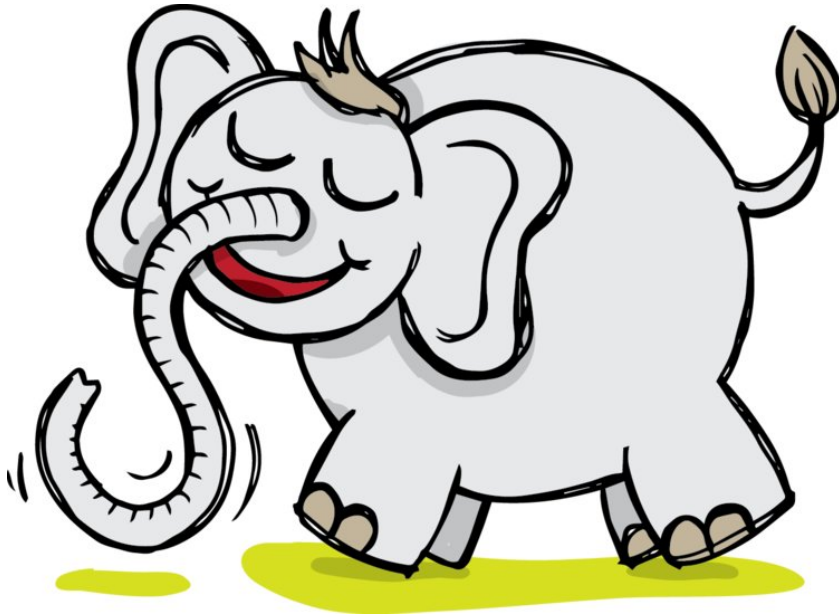


Curious baby elephant

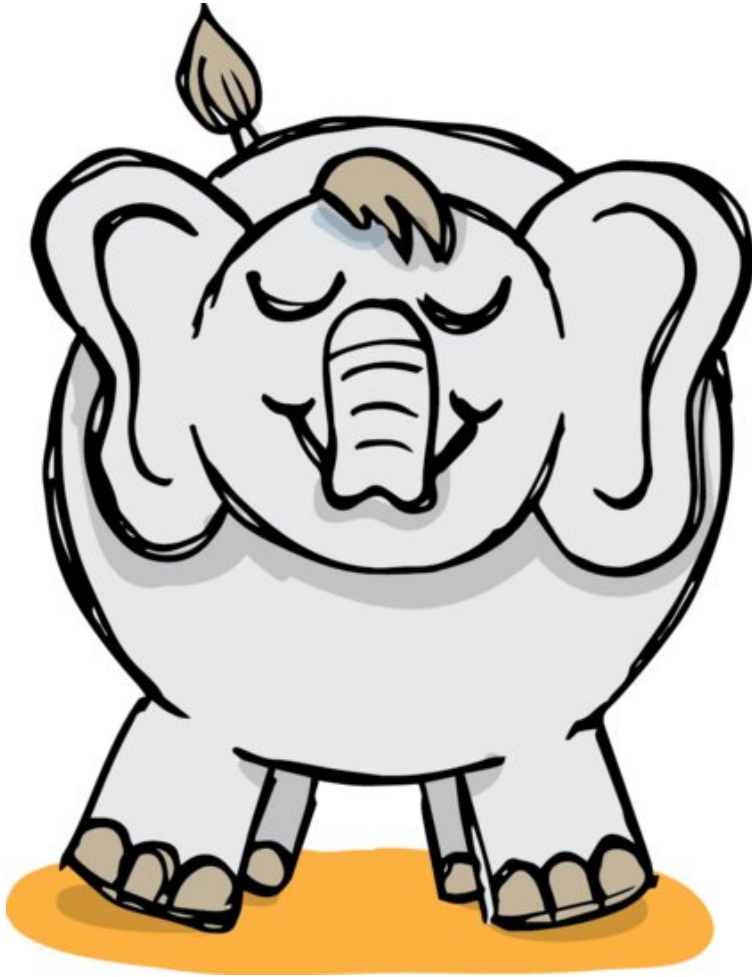
Judith Baker and
Lorato Trok

Wiehan de Jager

English



Everyone knows that the elephant has a very long nose.



But a long time ago, the elephant's nose was short and fat.

Like a shoe in the middle of its face.



One day a baby elephant was born.

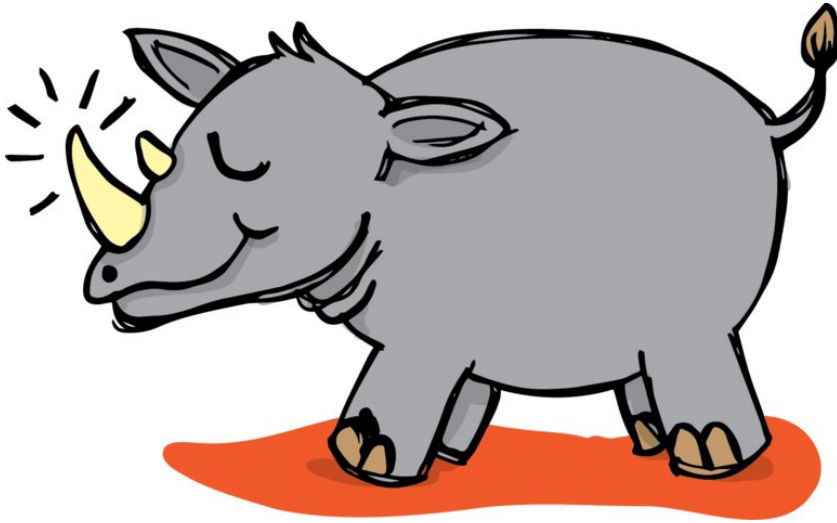
She was curious about everything.

She had a question for every animal.



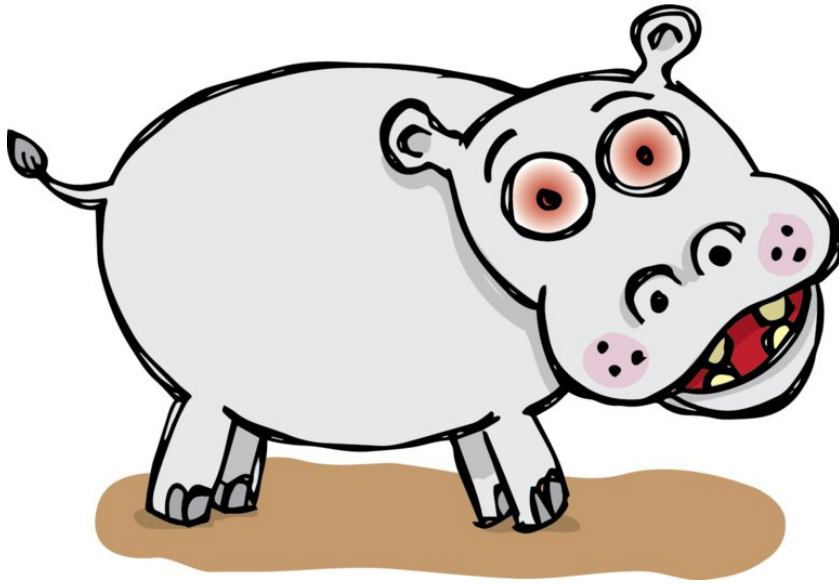
She was curious
about Giraffe.

"Why do you have
a long neck?" she
asked.



She was curious about Rhino.

"Why does your horn have a sharp point?"



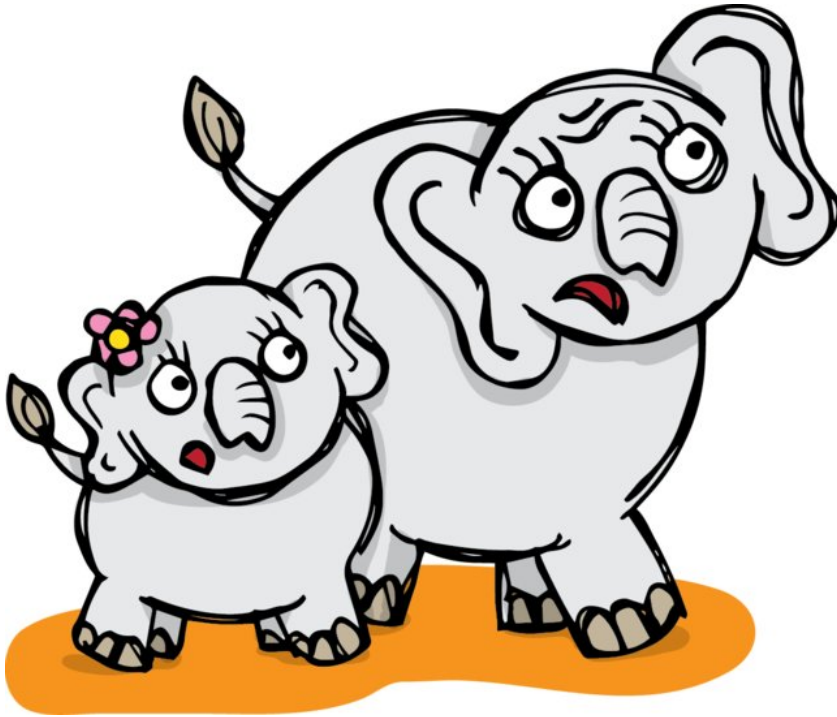
She was curious about Hippo.

"Why do you have red eyes?" she asked.



And she was VERY
curious about
Crocodile.

"What does
Crocodile eat for
dinner?" she asked



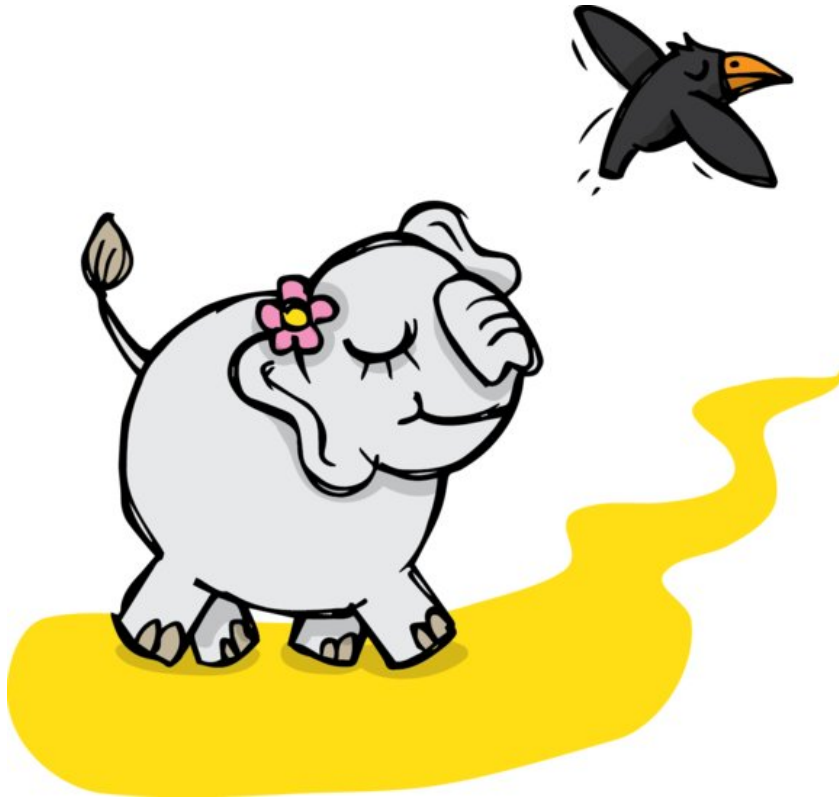
"Never ask a question like that!" said her mother.

Then she walked off, frowning.



Quickly Crow flew down to baby elephant.

"Follow me to the river. There you will see what Crocodile eats for dinner," squawked Crow.



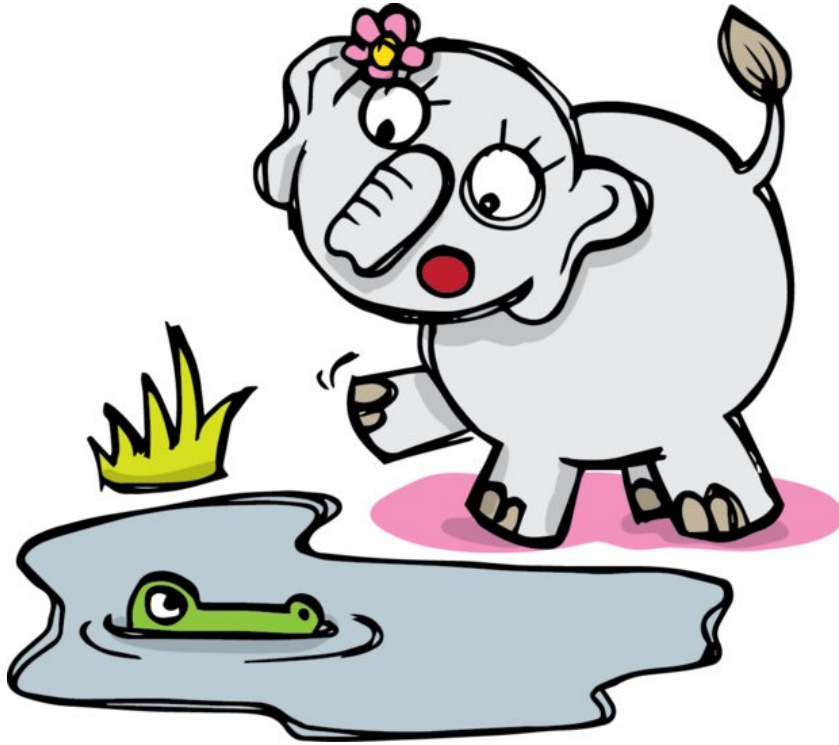
So the baby
elephant followed
Crow down to the
river.



She pushed
through the reeds
and stood on the
bank.

She looked into the
water.

Where was
Crocodile?



"Hello," said a stone near the river bank.

"Hello," said Baby Elephant. "Can you tell me what Crocodile eats for dinner?" she asked



"Bend down and I will tell you," said the stone.

"Lower, lower," said the stone.

So Baby Elephant bent down lower, and lower.



Then suddenly,
"Snap!" Baby
Elephant's nose
was caught in
Crocodile's jaws.

"Crocodile will eat
you for dinner!"
squawked Crow,
and flew away.



Baby Elephant sat back on her strong legs and pulled.

She pulled, and pulled.

But Crocodile did not let go of her nose.



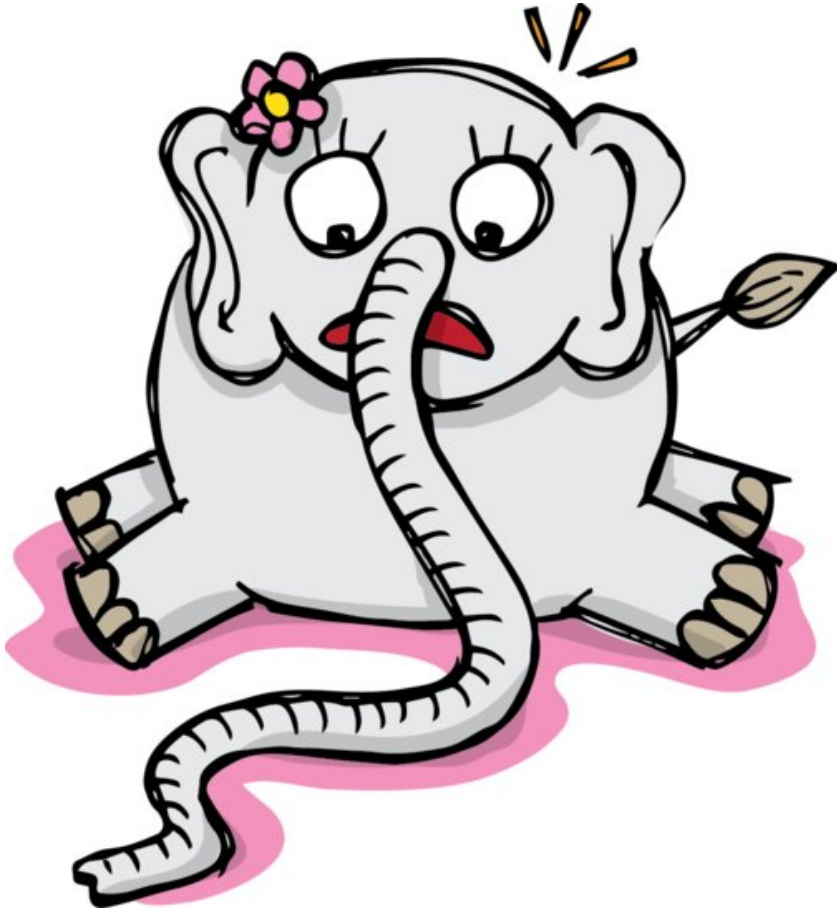
Baby Elephant's
nose stretched,
and stretched, and
stretched.

Then, "Thud!" she
fell on her back.



Crocodile sunk
back into the
water.

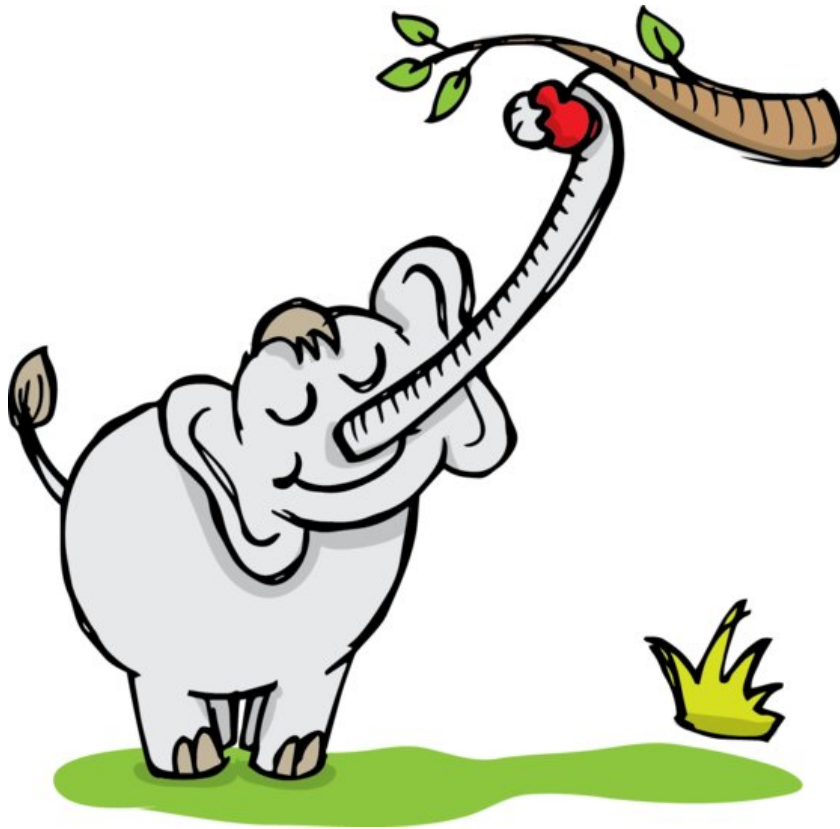
He was cross about
losing his dinner.



Baby Elephant
looked at her nose.

It was stretched
very long.

She could not see
where it ended!



Her nose was so long she could pick fruit from high branches.



Her nose was so long she could shower her back with water.

From that day, all elephants had long and useful trunks.

Curious baby elephant

Author - Judith Baker and Lorato Trok

Illustration - Wiehan de Jager

Language - English

Level - First sentences

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Source www.africanstorybook.org