

# Reading for Meaning

**Welcome to the Reading for  
Meaning programme.**

**We hope that you will have fun  
reading stories and doing activities  
with learners.**

**Remember, nurturing and  
supporting a child is important  
for their physical, emotional and  
academic development.**



**Part of the Zero Dropout campaign working towards  
halving the rate of school dropout by 2030.**

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# The elephant and the ants

STORY GUIDE

STORY  
**6**

## EACH READER NEEDS...

The story

Pens or pencils

Paper

# The Story



## **INTRODUCE THE STORY**

Elephant has been bullying the ants for some time now and the ants have had enough. They will not stand for elephant's bullying so they make a plan to fight back but what can tiny ants do to a big elephant....



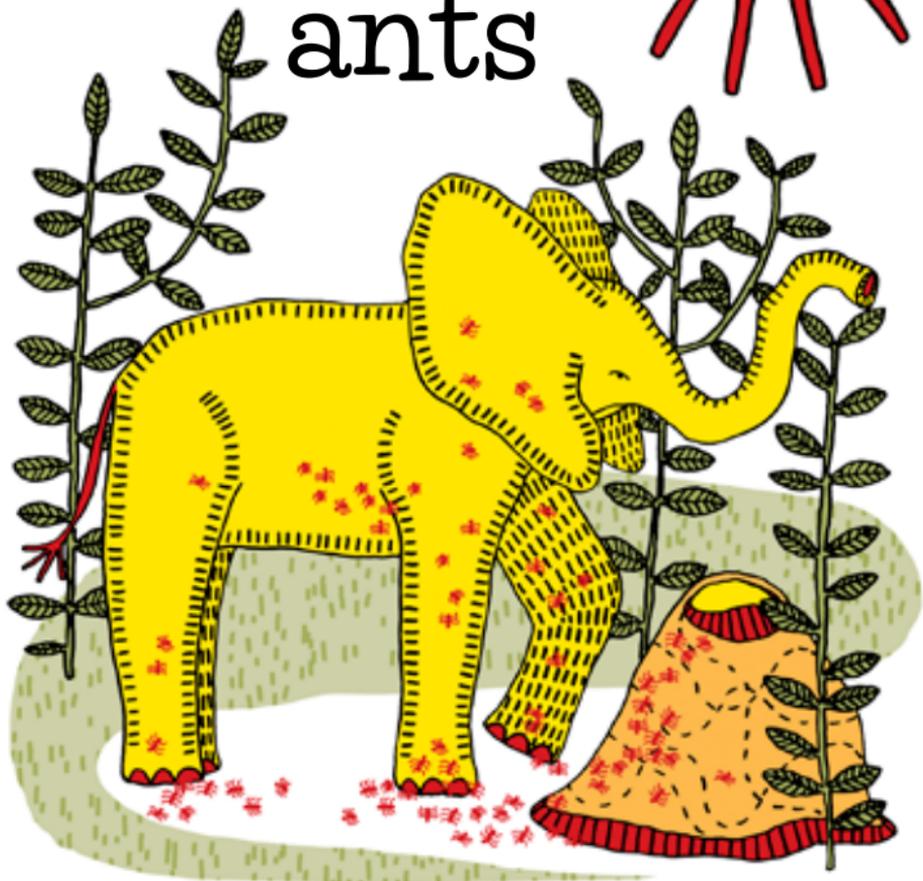
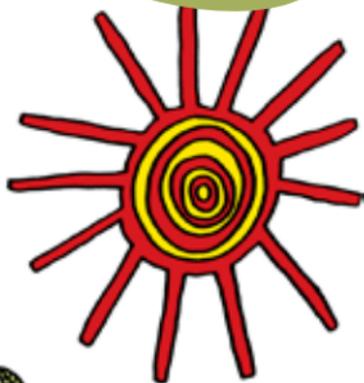
## **READ THE STORY...**

Read the story aloud, with expression. Change your voice when different characters speak.

Pause briefly for commas, full stops etc. and between paragraphs.

# The elephant and the ants

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There was once a young elephant who liked to look for mischief. One day, he went wandering away from his family and went walking in the bush.

He saw an ant-hill and thought it would be fun to trample all over it and break it. He tramped and stamped all over the anthill and almost destroyed it. Then he laughed and laughed; as if this was all just a joke: “Ha ha, ha ha, ha!”

The ants came running out of their tunnels in a panic. Altogether, in their tiny ant voices, they shouted: “STOP IT! STOP IT – NOW!”

Do you know what the young elephant did? He ran away!

Straight away, as quickly as they could, the ants started fixing their home. At last it was a tall ant-hill again, with all the passages re-built.

A few days later, that young elephant went walking again. He saw, with surprise, that the

ant-hill had been fixed. “Hah!” he thought. “More fun for me!”

Do you know what he did? Again he stomped all over the anthill, breaking the ant home with his massive legs. Again he laughed and laughed. “Ha ha, ha ha, ha!”

The ants were furious.

Let’s see what the smart ants did. Suddenly, hundreds of ants came running out of the ant-hill. They ran up the elephant’s huge legs, they ran behind his ears and ran up his trunk.

They tickled him, bit him and tickled him again.

“Hee hee hee! That tickles! Ow! that’s sore! Ow! Please stop it! Ow!” yelled the young elephant.

The ants answered: “Just look what you’ve done! You’ve destroyed our beautiful home - not once but twice! We will only stop biting you if you stop bothering us and if you stop breaking

down our home.”

The elephant stood with his mouth hanging open in surprise.

The ants said: “You think that because you are bigger and stronger than us, you can bully us. Well, think again! We are powerful too. We may be tiny, but there are lots of us. Together we are strong!”

The elephant was very itchy and very sore and very tired of being bitten, so he said: “Okay, I won’t destroy your home again. Just please don’t bite me or tickle me any more!”

When the ants heard this, they ran down the elephant’s ears, down his trunk and down his legs.

Then they looked up at the elephant and in their tiny voices, all together, they said:

“And just think about this. We build things up. We don’t break things down. We are constructive,

we're not destructive.”

The elephant replied: “Actually, I am quite impressed with the way you fixed your home!”

So the ants went back into their home, and the young elephant went back to the herd.

The next day, when he went walking in the bush, that young elephant walked very, very carefully around the ant-heap. And if you looked at his face, you could see he was smiling.

And all those little ants? Well - I think they were smiling too.

And that is the end of the story.



## WORD FOCUS

Ask the Readers to choose words that they find difficult and write them on a sheet of paper.

Ask them to use a dictionary or ask someone else at home what those words mean in their home language. Help them out if necessary.



## SECOND READING...

Once you've worked out the meaning of the words, read the story again out loud.

# Activities

## STORY QUIZ

1

Ask the Readers to write the answers to the following questions:

**Think of one difference between the elephant and the ants.**

**Think of one thing that is the same for the elephant and the ants.**

**Why did the elephant decide to trample all over the ant-heap?**

**Do you think this elephant would be a good friend? Why/why not?**

**What do you think the young elephant in the story learnt in the end?**

**Remember this is a fable - it is told to teach us something. What did you learn from this fable?**

**2** Once they finish writing their answers, ask the Readers to share their answers with you. You can discuss as a group to hear what the other Readers think.

## Ending

Praise the Readers for their participation.

Ask if they enjoyed the story, and what they liked best. Tell them you enjoyed it too.

Say goodbye, and say how much you look forward to seeing them next time.

**ZERO  
DROP/OUT**

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