

## **Elmer's Special Day**

### **by David McKee**



**STORY DESCRIPTION:** It's almost Elmer's Day again for the elephants, and they are getting their colourful parade outfits ready. But in their excitement they are making an awful lot of noise and upsetting the other animals. So Elmer changes the rules and invites every single animal in the jungle to join the parade. And they have a special surprise for Elmer... what will it be?

**SUBJECTS:** Social-Emotional Learning, Art

**GRADE LEVELS:** Pre-K, K, 1

#### **USING omBooks IN THE CLASSROOM**

##### **Reading Modes**

###### *Read it Myself*

- Read the story to your students or have the students read the story themselves
- Turn the pages to read at your own pace

###### *Read to Me*

- Follow along as the story is read by the narrator
- Turn the pages to read at your own pace

###### *Auto Play*

- Follow along as the story is read by a narrator
- Pages turn automatically for reading at a controlled pace

##### **Interactive Features**

- Tap a picture to hear and see the word associated with it
- Tap on an individual word to hear it pronounced
- Touch and hold a paragraph to hear it read by a narrator
- Find the creatures throughout the story! Tap on them to count them.

## **Reading Dynamics**

### *Large Group*

- Connect your iOS or Android device to your classroom projector, TV, or computer monitor (see *How-To Guide*).
- Use the *Read it Myself* mode to read the story aloud, or use the *Read to Me* or *Auto Play* modes to present the story to the entire class.
- Use the discussion questions on page 3 to guide a whole-class discussion.
- Alternatively, if your students can read, project the questions on the screen. Invite students to partner up and discuss the story in pairs. Ask them to record their discussion on the iOS or Android device so you can assess their work.

### *Small Groups*

- Gather a small group of students and display the iOS or Android device so all can see.
- Use the *Read it Myself* mode to read the story aloud, or use the *Read to Me* or *Auto Play* modes to present the story to the small group.
- Use the discussion questions on page 3 to guide a group discussion.

### *Partners*

- If you have enough devices in the classroom, invite students to read or listen to the story in pairs.
- Students can take turns reading pages, asking questions, and supporting each other.
- If your students can read, give them the discussion questions from page 3. Ask them to record their discussion on the iOS or Android device so you can assess their work.
- If your students are non-readers, invite the class to come back together as a large group. Guide a class discussion using the discussion questions on page 3.

### *Independent*

- If you have enough devices in the classroom, invite students to read or listen to the story independently.
- Students can use the interactive features to support their reading, and each student can explore the text and illustrations at an individualized pace.
- If your students can read, give them the discussion questions from page 3 and ask them to type or record their responses on the device.
- If your students are non-readers, invite the class to come back together as a large group. Guide a class discussion using the discussion questions on page 3.

## **DISCUSSING THE STORY**

1. In the beginning of the story, why are the other animals frustrated? How do you think they were feeling about the parade? Why?
2. Why does Elmer decide to include the other animals in the parade? How do you think the animals felt when Elmer invited them to the parade? Why?
3. Have you ever felt left out? Have you ever left someone out? How can you make people feel included?
4. Why do you think the other animals wear elephant masks to the parade?

## EXTENDING THE LEARNING

Support students in using the iOS or Android device as a tool to extend their learning. Some ideas:

- **Decorate your own elephants!** Invite kids to paint their own elephants. Encourage them to try out original designs. Take a quick video of each student showing off their finished product-- ask each child about the technique they used to paint the elephant and the inspiration behind their design. Compile the video clips to create a class video, or share individual clips with parents.
- **Tell a transmedia story:** Ask your students to come up with a story about feeling left out. They can use an example from real life or something from their imaginations. Maybe someone didn't get invited to a birthday party? Or perhaps some kids were being exclusive on the playground? Use some or all of the following media:
  - Produce a movie
  - Conduct and audio-record an interview for a podcast
  - Perform a digital puppet show using a puppet app (such as Sock Puppets on iOS)
  - Draw or paint scenes to create a slideshow

## SHARING YOUR WORK

Have you used the [Elmer's Special Day](#) omBook in your class? We'd love to hear about it! To share your experience, please visit the educators section of our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OceanhouseMedia> .

## DOWNLOADING THE APPS

omBooks (Oceanhouse Media Digital Books) are available for purchase in the following stores:

