

Welland Gouldsmith School

Class-4

English Literature Worksheet

Chapter 2- The Elephant's Child

Synopsis

This is a wonderful story written by none other than Rudyard Kipling about how the elephant got it's trunk. In far off times elephants did not have a long trunk instead they had a blackish bulgy nose, as big as a boot that they could wriggle about from side to side but they could not pick up things with it. Among the elephants there was one who was extremely curious and his curiosity always got others to spank him. As he was curious by nature he wanted to know what the crocodile has for dinner. So he asked the Kolokolo Bird who flew by, the bird asked him to go to the banks of the great-grey green Limpopo River and find out. The Elephant's Child took a hundred pounds of bananas, seventeen melons and bid his family goodbye and went off to meet the crocodile. After travelling for many days, eating the bananas and the melons throwing the peels all over finally he reached the Limpopo River. As he came to the edge of the river and stepped on what he thought was a log of wood. It was actually a crocodile, he asked the crocodile what he ate for dinner the crocodile told the Elephant Child to come closer. The curious Elephant Child put his head closer to the crocodile's musky tusky mouth and snap, a row of big, sharp teeth closed around the elephant's nose as it tried to move his nose stretched and grew longer. The trunk grew four feet long. Failed at the attempt of eating the elephant the crocodile swam away. On the other hand, the Elephant's Child was able to use his trunk for several things and was happy with his new look. However, he grew homesick and decided to go home. Finding his way back with the help of the banana skins and melon rind, he had dropped on the way he was finally home with his family. This time he looked different and was able to uncurl his long new trunk much to the amazement of his family he spanked two of his dear brothers with it. When he was questioned as to how he learned the trick and how his nose grew long he replied saying that the crocodile had given it to him, after he asked the crocodile what he had for dinner. Hence, the entire family went off one by one to the crocodile in the great-grey green Limpopo River to get new long noses and ever since, elephants have had long trunks.

1) Fill in the blanks:

- a) In far off times _____ did not have a long trunk.
- b) The Elephant's Child was full of _____.
- c) The Elephant's Child took a hundred _____ of bananas and seventeen _____.
- d) The _____ had no intention on letting go off the Elephant's Child's _____.
- e) A _____ man is an _____ man.
- f) The crocodile was found in the great, grey-green _____ River.

2) Name them:

- a) He would not let go off his dinner-
- b) He told the Elephant's Child where to find the crocodile-
- c) The crocodile was found here-
- d) She is the Elephant Child's broad aunt-
- e) He has insatiable curiosity-

3) Answer the following questions:

- a) Describe the Elephant's Child's nose before he had a trunk.
- b) Who told the Elephant's Child where to find the crocodile?
- c) Where was the crocodile found?
- d) How long did the Elephant's Child's trunk grow?
- e) What did the herd of elephants decide to do at the end of the story?

Text book exercise on page 18

1. A, B, C

2. A

4. Answer the following questions in detail on page 20

4. a, b, c, d, e