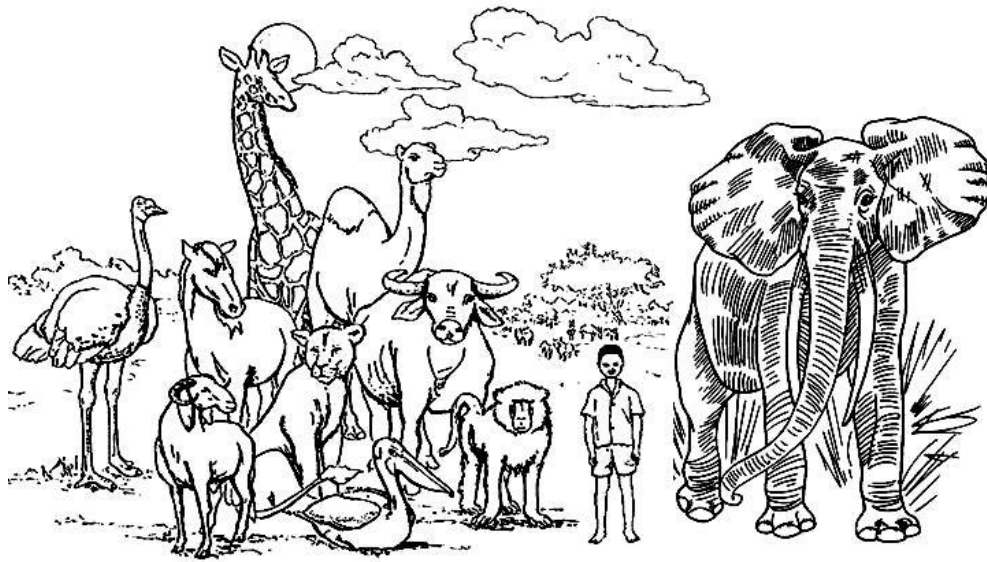
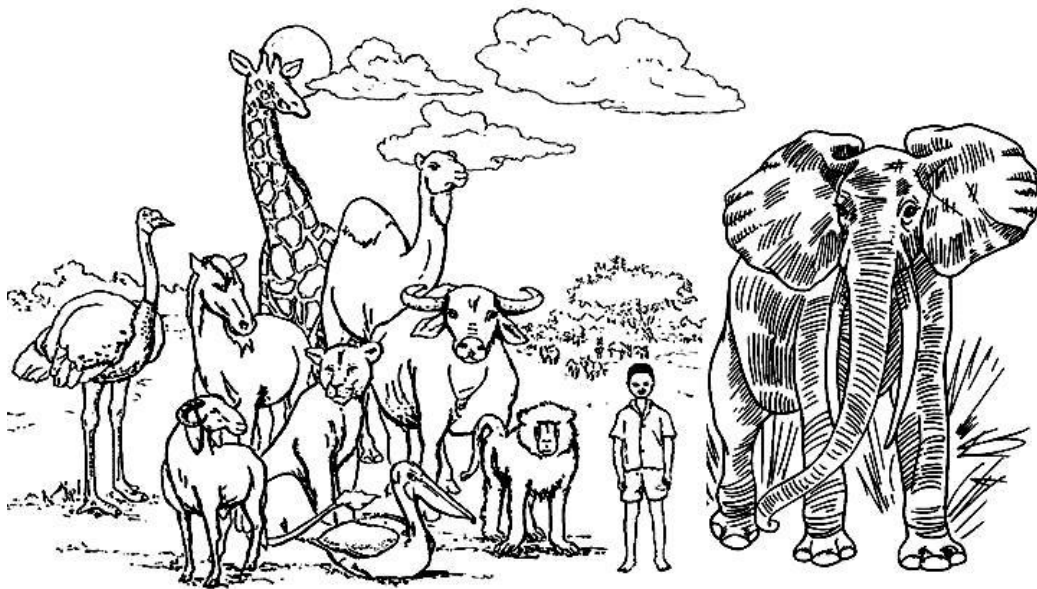


# Ebuka and the Elephants



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### **Ebuka and the Elephants (English)**

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*For my niece, Rejoice.  
Welcome to the family.*



“Ebuka, remember to wash your plates after eating,” said his mother.

Ebuka thought to himself, “They made the meal, so they should clean it up. I am only a child.” So when he finished eating, he left his plate unclean and went out to play.



His mother was angry and sent Ebuka to the bush to get firewood.

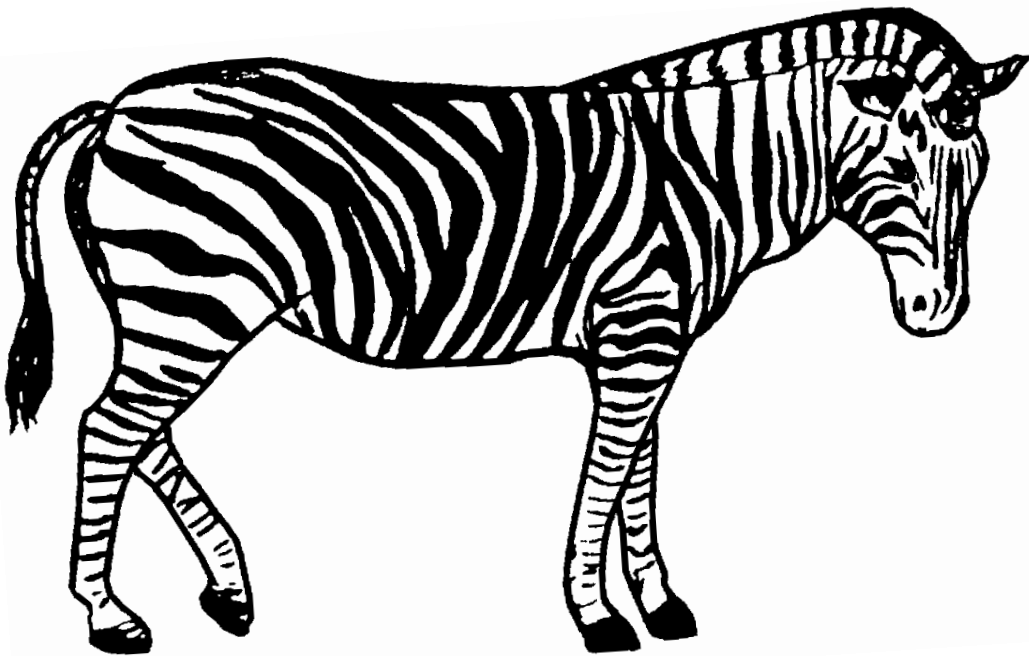
“Do not come home without



a full bundle!” she said.

Ebuka was grumbling on his way to find wood when he met an injured zebra.

He approached the zebra slowly to see what was wrong.





The zebra did not run.

Ebuka spoke to it softly and bent down to look at its injured leg.

That is when Ebuka heard a voice say, “They are trying to take our land.”

Startled, Ebuka jumped back and started to run away.



“Don’t go,” said the voice, “it is only I, the peaceful zebra. I was trying to save my land, and they crushed my foot.”

Ebuka turned around and saw that the voice was coming from the zebra.

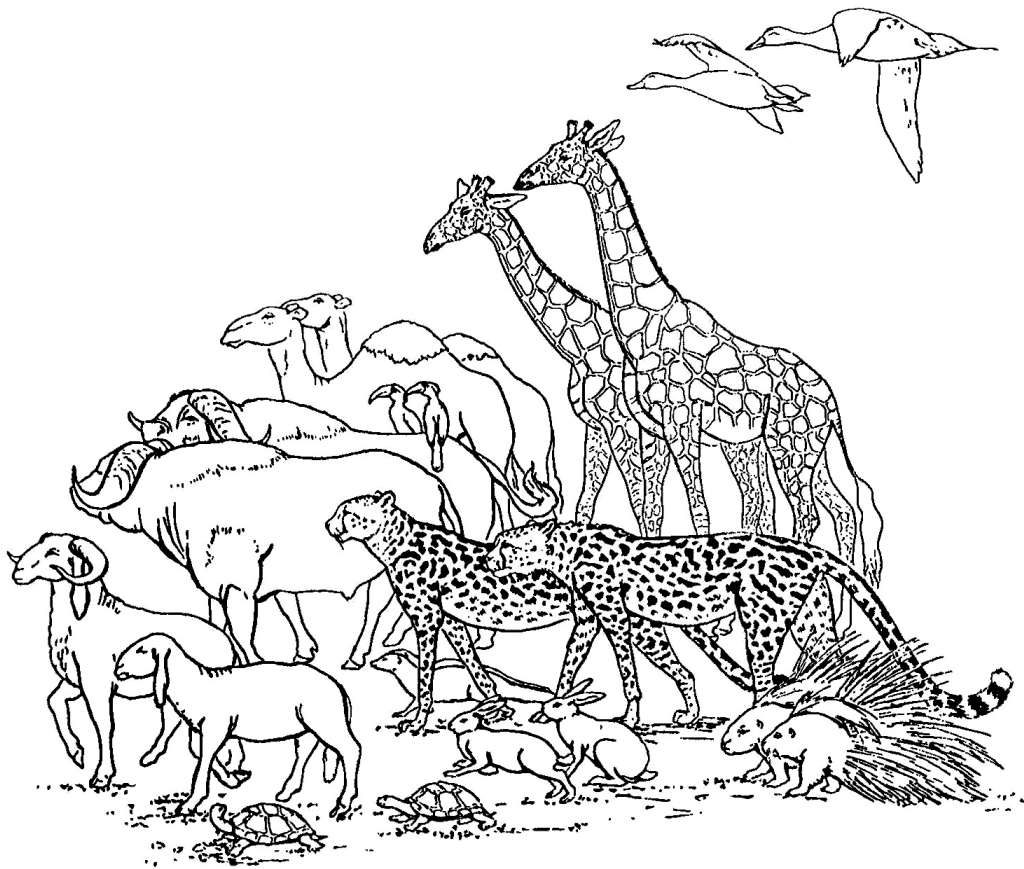
“You can speak?” asked Ebuka.

The zebra said, “Yes, I come from a kingdom in the bush where all the animals can speak.”

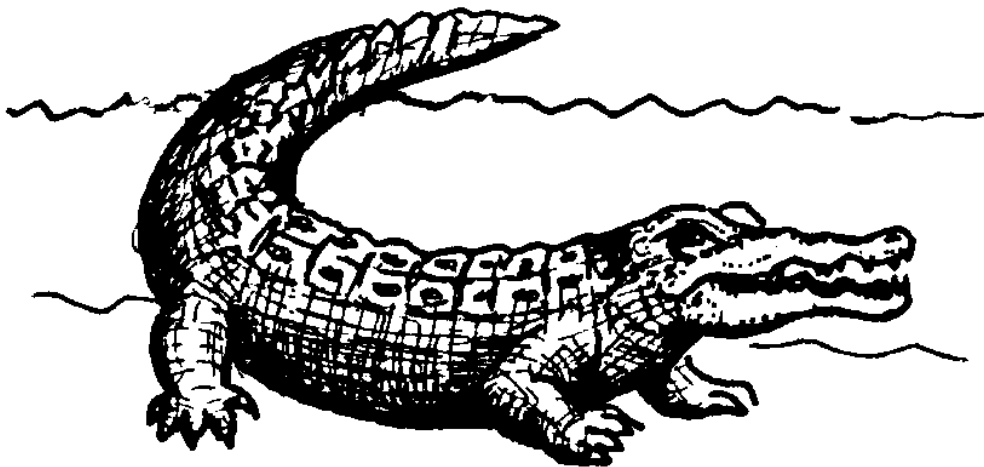
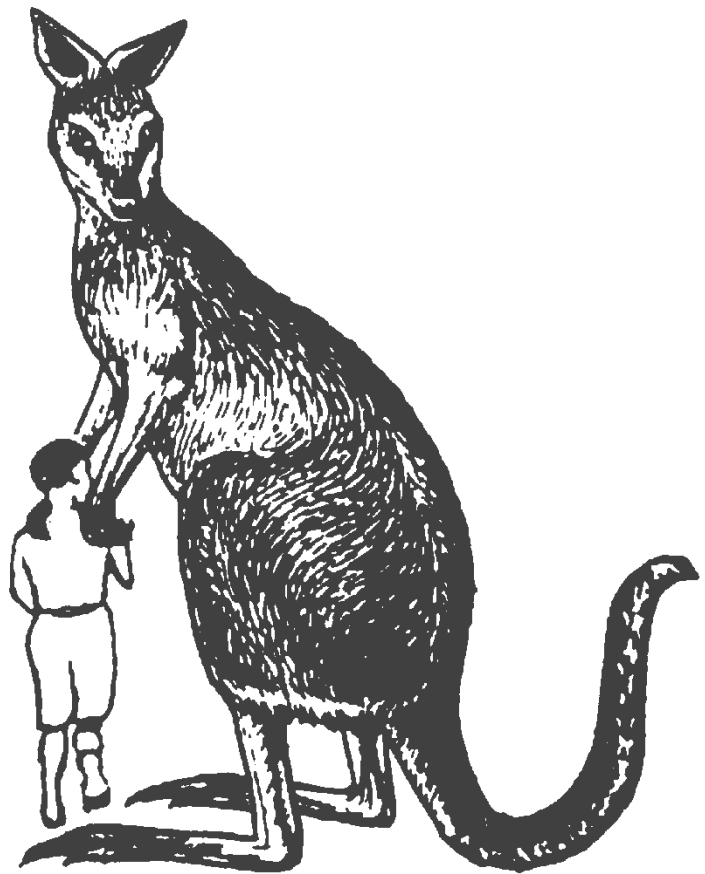
“Who is trying to take your land?”  
asked Ebuka.

“Come with me, and I will show you,”  
said the zebra.

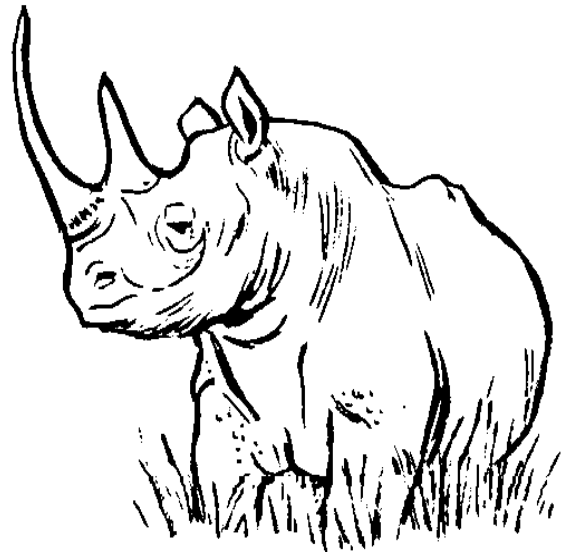
Ebuka immediately forgot about his punishment and followed the zebra to its land. There he met many beautiful creatures of the land and sea.



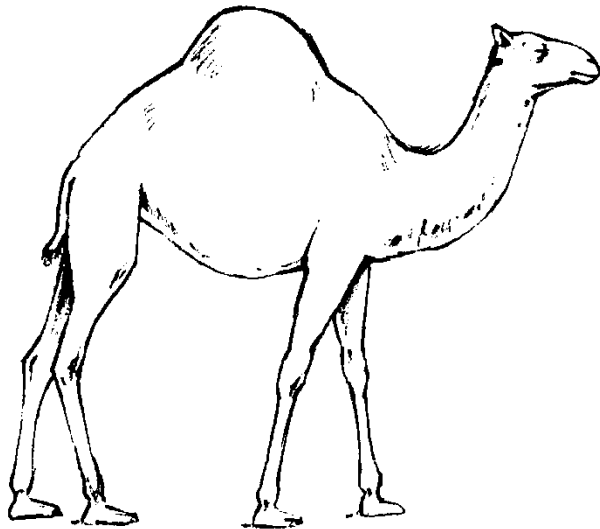
He met all types  
of animals,  
including the  
kangaroo with  
its strong legs  
and big pouch.  
And the  
crocodile with  
its scary teeth.



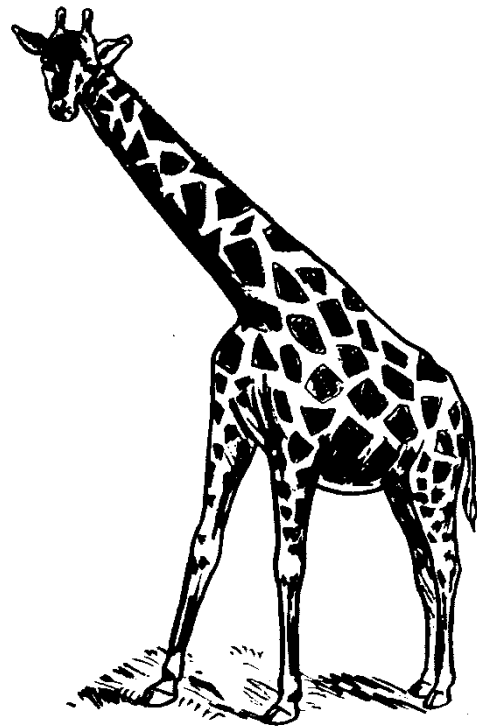
And the rhinoceros  
with its horns.



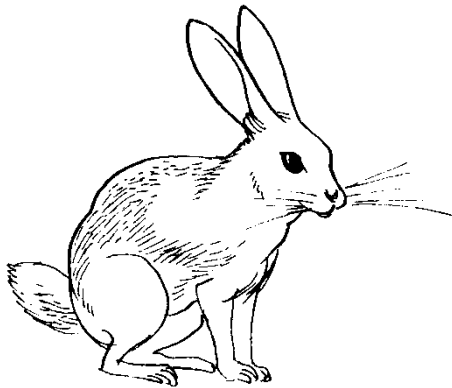
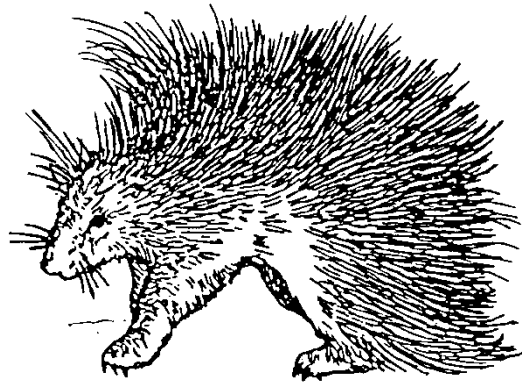
And the camel with  
its hump.



And the giraffe  
with its long neck.

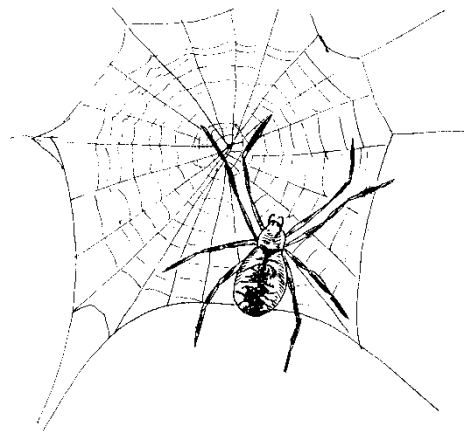


And the porcupine  
with its quills.



And the rabbit with its  
big ears.

And the spider with  
its web.



Each creature was special in its own way, but all of the creatures were kind and welcomed Ebuka.

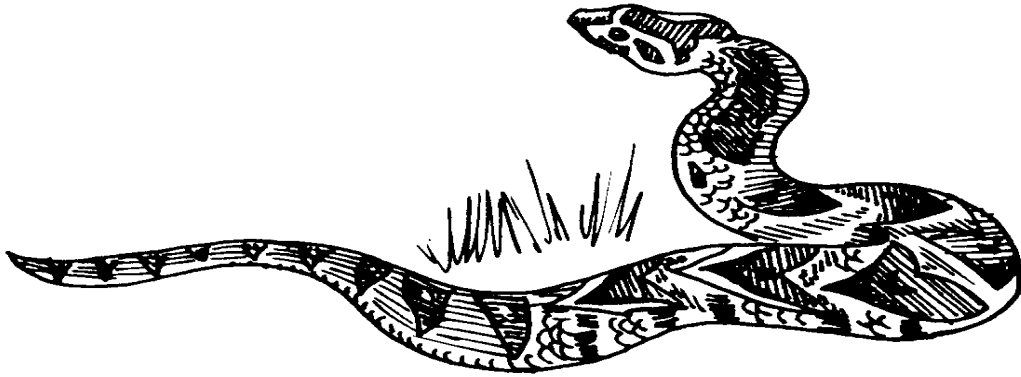
They asked, “Have you come to help us?”

“Help you with what? I am only a child,” said Ebuka.





“It is the elephants,” replied the snake.  
“They are planning to attack

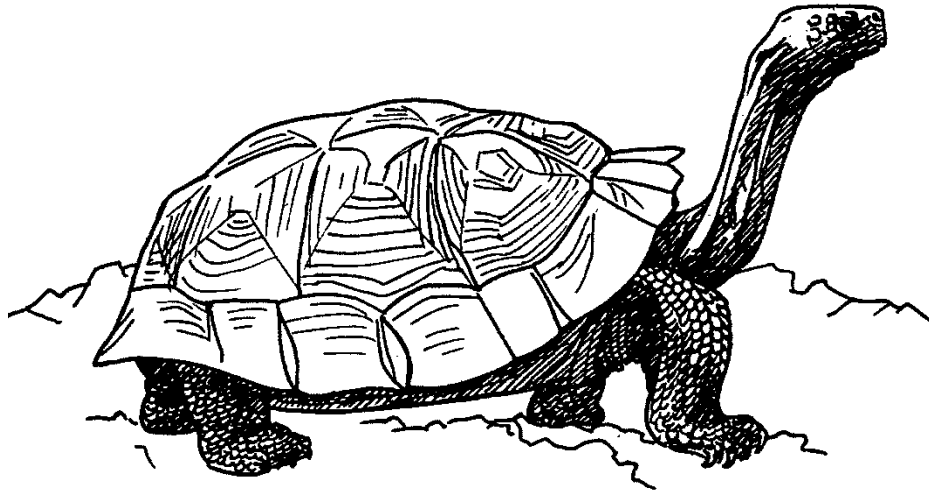


us. They to destroy us and take our  
land.”

“This is what I  
wanted to tell  
you,” said the  
zebra.



“They are planning to crush us with their big feet,” added the tortoise.



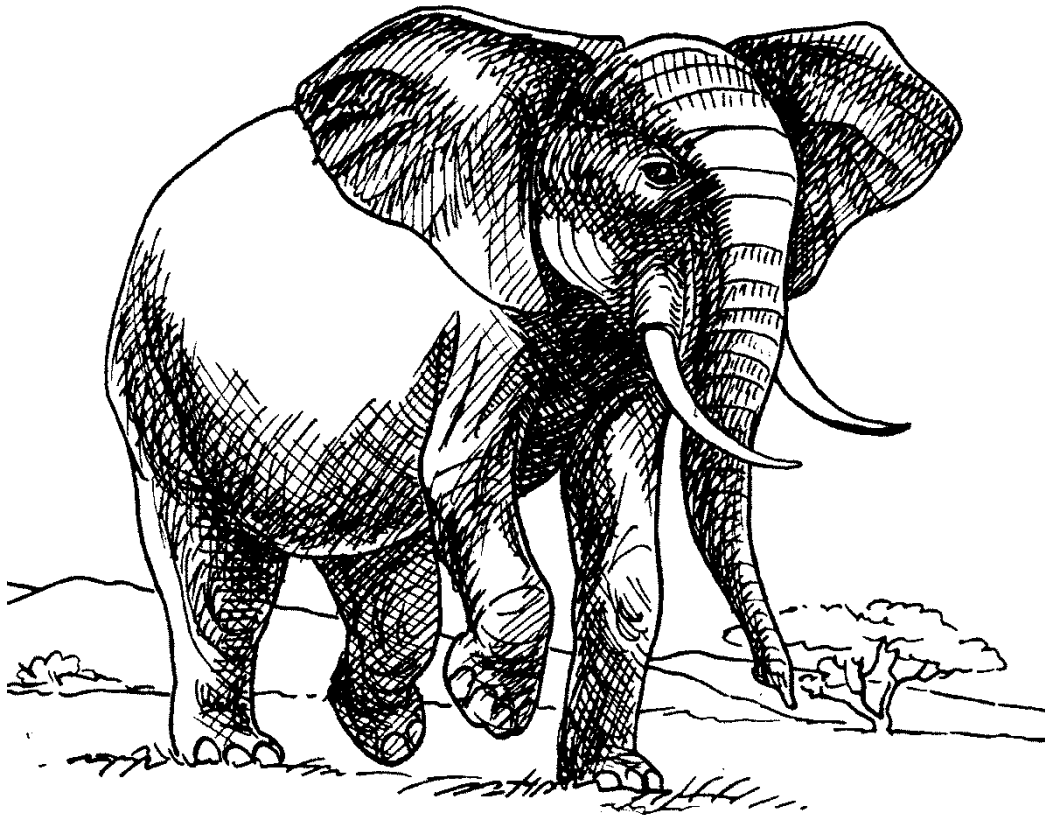
“Why is this?” asked Ebuka. “Why can’t you all live together in peace?”

“We don’t know,” they replied.

“Then I will go to the elephants and ask them myself,” said Ebuka.

So some of the animals then accompanied him to the border of the land of the elephants. When they arrived, sure enough they found the elephants preparing for war against the other animals.

“What do you want with us, human child?” said the elephants. “You are small, and you have no gun. We can easily crush you with our big feet.”



“Why are you planning to fight the other animals?” asked Ebuka. “Both lands can live together in peace without fighting.”

“All the other animals are smaller than us,” said the elephants. “We have no use for them. But when they are gone, we can use their land.”

Ebuka thought hard to come up with a plan. He said, “If I can make you see differently, will you renounce this war?”

The elephants laughed and said, “Nothing you can say will change the fact that we are big and you are small.”

So Ebuka called a monkey and asked him to climb up a tall tree.

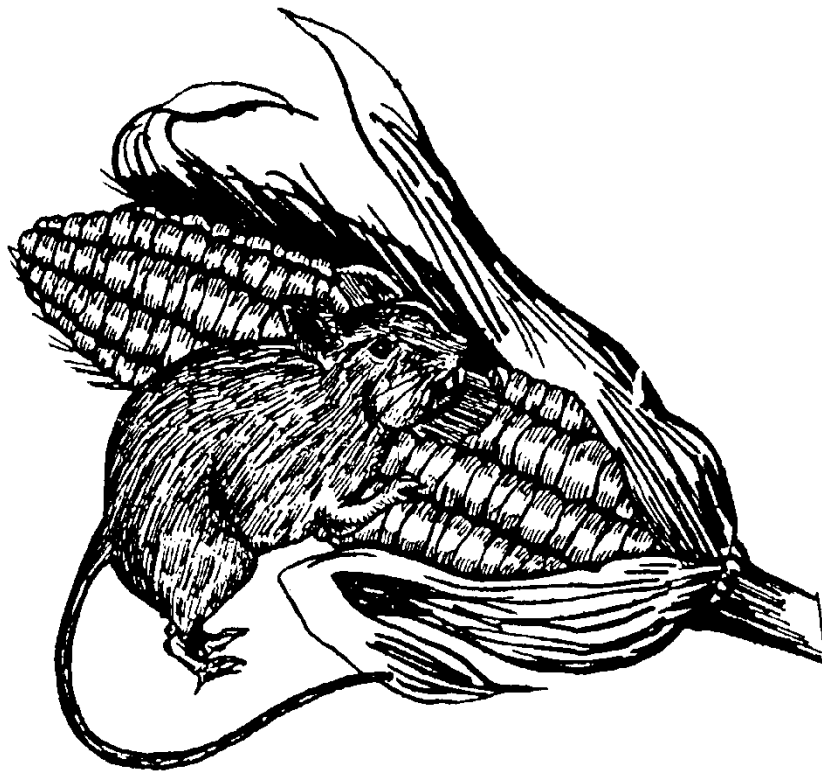
“Do you see this small monkey?” said Ebuka to the elephants. “He is not big like you, but he can climb up this tall tree and get tasty fruit for you that you cannot reach yourselves.”



The elephants consulted among themselves then said, “What you have said is true, but this is only one usefulness. If only for that, we can live without tasty fruit.”

So next Ebuka called a mouse to come with some maize infested with insects. He turned to the elephants and said, “Do you see this small mouse?”





“He is not big like you, but he feeds on insects. So if your food is infested, the mouse can eat all the bugs and leave the rest clean for you.”

The elephants consulted among themselves again then said, “Again, you have spoken the truth, human child, but this is only the second usefulness. If only for that, we can live without tasty fruit and clean food.”

As the elephants were still not convinced, Ebuka decided to try one more time.

He called some birds and asked them to fly up high in the sky.

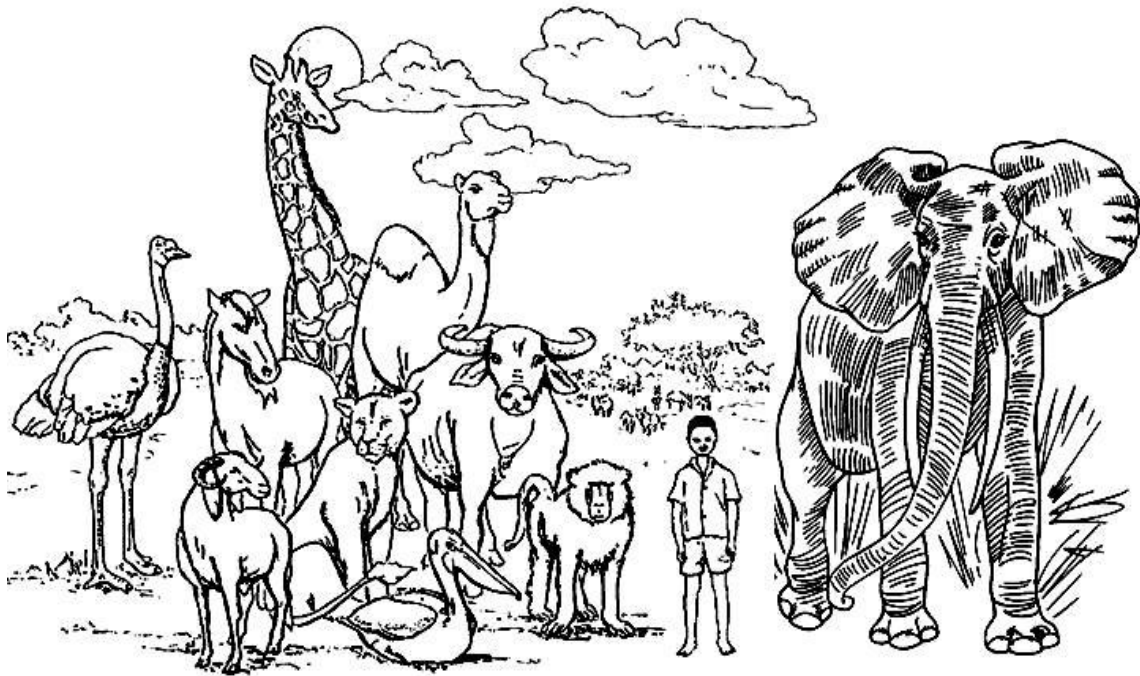


“Look,” he said, “do you see these small birds? They are not big like you, but they can fly high and see far away.”

“Nor are their ears big like yours,” said Ebuka, “but they can see farther than you can hear. So whenever the poachers are coming, the birds can warn you. They can even save your lives!”

If there was one thing the elephants feared, it was the poachers’ guns. They consulted among themselves one last time, then spoke.

“Human child, you may be small, but you are wise. You have made your point. We will renounce the war. We will live in peace with all our fellow creatures.”



“In fact,” added the elephants, “we will help them in return by carrying their heavy loads for them.”

All the animals rejoiced that the war was over. They returned to their homes to live in peace. From that day forward, the elephants were kind and helpful to all their animal neighbors.

After bringing peace to the two kingdoms, Ebuka said goodbye to his new friends, picked his bundle of firewood, and went back home.



When he got home, he found that his mother was worried and looking all over for him because it was already night.

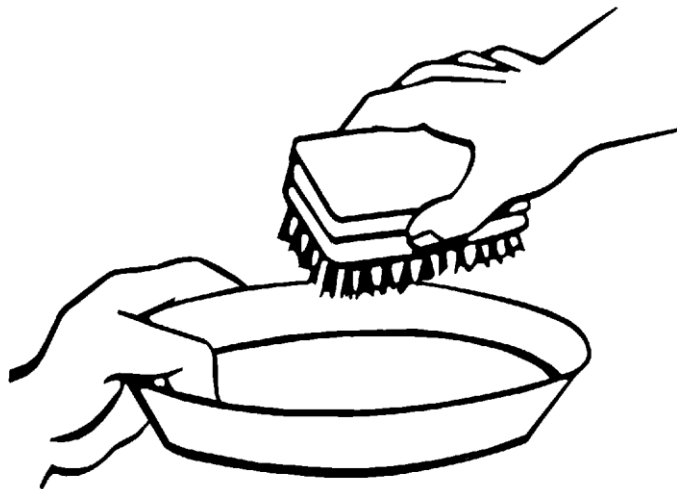




Ebuka hugged his mother and promised never to be disobedient again.

He said, “Please forgive me — I was wrong to neglect my work. I see now that even though I am small, I can be a big help.”

Then he washed all the dishes.



## **Check Your Understanding!**

1. How did Ebuka get in trouble with his mother?
2. What happened when Ebuka met the zebra in the bush?
3. Why did the elephants want to go to war with the other animals?
4. How did Ebuka change their minds?
5. What lesson did Ebuka learn himself?

