

The Elephant's Child

SONG: "In Africa" (Narrator #1 speaks during song)

Scene 1

Narrator #1: In the high and far off times the elephant had no trunk. He had only a bulgy nose, that he could wriggle about from side to side; but he couldn't pick up things with it.

But there was one elephant... a new elephant,,, an Elephant's Child. Who was full of curiosity. And he lived in Africa!

Narrator #2: One fine morning this Elephant's Child asked a new fine question that he had never asked before.

Elephant's Child: What does the Crocodile have for dinner?

All: Hush!

Narrator#2: And they spanked him immediately. By and by, when that was finished, he came upon Kolokolo Bird sitting in the middle of a thornbush, and he said,

Elephant's Child: My father has spanked me, and my mother has spanked me; all my aunts and uncles have spanked me for my curiosity: and still I want to know what the Crocodile has for dinner!

Kolokolo Bird: Go to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, and find out.

Narrator#2: That very next morning, this Elephant's Child took a hundred pounds of bananas, and seventeen melons, and said to all his dear families... "Goodbye dear families. I am going to the great grey-green greasy Limpopo River, to find out what the Crocodile has for dinner."

SONG: "The Great Grey-Green Greasy Limpopo River"

Scene 2

Narrator#3: Now you must know, that till that very day, this Elephant's Child had never seen a Crocodile, and did not know what one was like. The first thing that he found was a Rock Python.

Elephant's Child: 'Scuse me, but have you seen such a thing as a Crocodile in these wild parts?

Python: Have I seen a Crocodile? What will you ask me next?

Elephant's Child: 'Scuse me, but could you kindly tell me what he has for dinner?

Narrator#3: Then the Rock Python uncoiled himself very quickly from the rock, and spanked the Elephant's Child with his scalesome, flailsome tail.

Elephant's Child: That is odd, because my father and my mother, and my uncles and my aunts have also spanked me for my curiosity!

Narrator#4: And so, he said goodbye very politely to the Rock Python, and he went on, eating melons, and throwing the rind about till he trod on what he thought was a log of wood at the very edge of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River. But it was really the Crocodile, and the Crocodile winked one eye – like this!

SONG: "A Crocodile Wink"

Scene 3

Elephant's Child: 'Scuse me, but do you happen to have seen a Crocodile in these wild parts?

Crocodile: Come hither, Little One, for I am the Crocodile...

Elephant's Child: You are the very person I have been looking for all these long days. Will you please tell me what you have for dinner?

Crocodile: Come hither , Little One, and I'll whisper.

Narrator#5: Then the Elephant's Child put his head down close to the Crocodile's mouth, and the Crocodile caught him by his little nose.

Crocodile: I think..I think today dinner will begin with Elephant's Child!

Elephant's Child: Led go! You are hurtig be!

Python: My young friend, if you do not now, immediately and instantly, pull as hard as ever you can, it is my opinion that the crocodile will jerk you into yonder stream

Narrator#5: Then the Elephant's Child felt his legs slipping and he said through his nose, which was now nearly five feet long,

Elephant's Child: This is too butch for be!

Narrator#5: The Rock Python knotted himself round the Elephant's Child.

Python: Rash and inexperienced traveler, your curiosity got you here but now we must act quickly before the crocodile ends your curiosity for good!

Python: Pull! **All: Pull!** Python: Pull! **All: Pull!** Python: Pull!

SONG: "Pull!"

Scene 4

Narrator#6: The Rock Python pulled hardest, and at last the Crocodile let go of the Elephant's Child's nose.

Elephant's Child: Thank you, Rock Python.

Narrator#6: And the Elephant's Child wrapped up his poor, pulled nose in cool banana leaves and hung it in the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo to cool.

Kolokolo Bird: What are you doing that for?

Elephant's Child: 'Scuse me, but my nose is badly out of shape, and I am waiting for it to shrink.

Kolokolo Bird: Then you will have to wait a long time. Some people do not know what is good for them.

Narrator#6: The Elephant's Child sat there for three days waiting for his nose to shrink, but it never did. For you see, the Crocodile had pulled it out into a really truly trunk as all Elephants have today.

SONG: "A Really Truly Trunk"

Scene 5

Narrator#7: So the Elephant's Child went home across Africa, frisking and whisking his trunk. With his new long nose, when he wanted fruit to eat, he pulled it down from a tree, instead of waiting for it to fall. When he wanted grass, he plucked it up from the ground, instead of going on his knees as he used to. He swished the flies away
One dark evening he came back to all his dear families. They were very glad to see him, and immediately said, "Come here and be spanked for your curiosity."

Elephant's Child: I don't think you peoples know anything about spanking; but I do!

Narrator#8: Then he uncurled his trunk and knocked two of his dear brothers head over heels. "Where did you learn that trick," said they, "and what have they done to your nose?"

Elephant's Child: I got a new one from the Crocodile on the banks of the great-grey-green, greasy Limpopo River. I asked him what he had for dinner, and he gave me this to keep

Narrator#8: And all his dear families went off to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River to borrow new noses from the Crocodile. And that is why all the Elephants you will ever see have trunks like the trunk of the Elephant's Child.

SONG: "Reprise: In Africa"