Ant and Elephant

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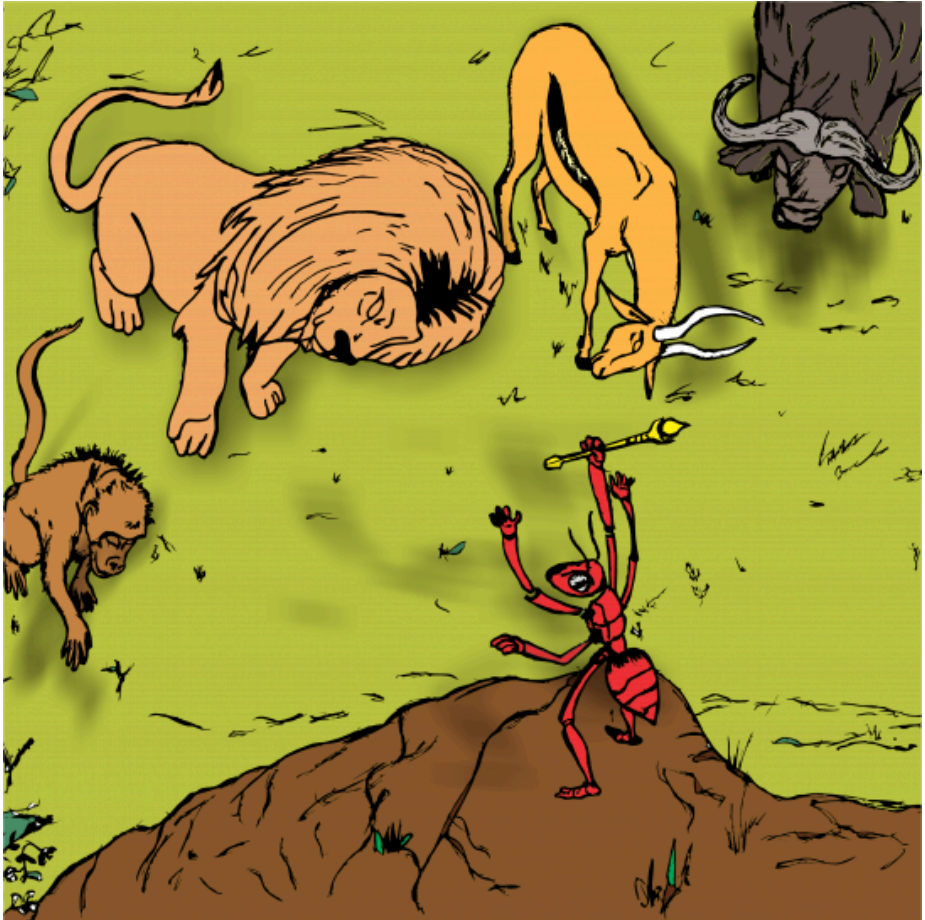One morning, the animals gathered to elect their king.

Different animals and insects came to the gathering.

Elephants, the largest animals, did not attend the meeting. All the animals were surprised by this.

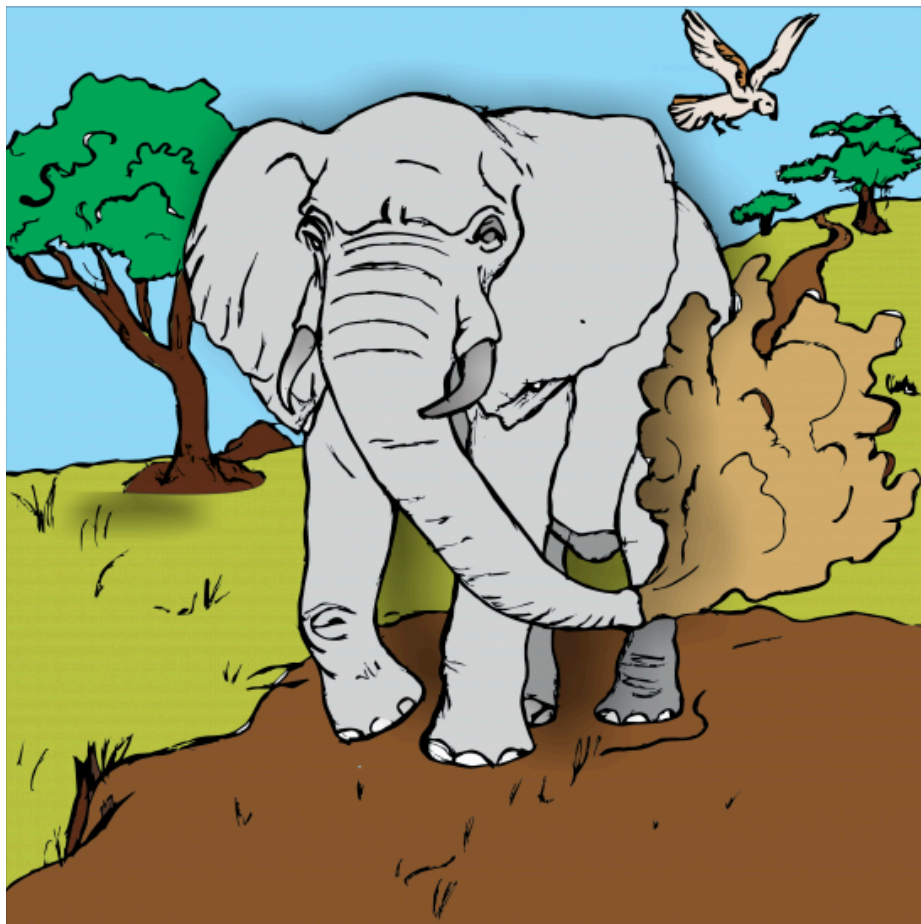The meeting continued without the elephants.

"We will hold the elections even if the elephants are absent. We must know our king today," said Owl.
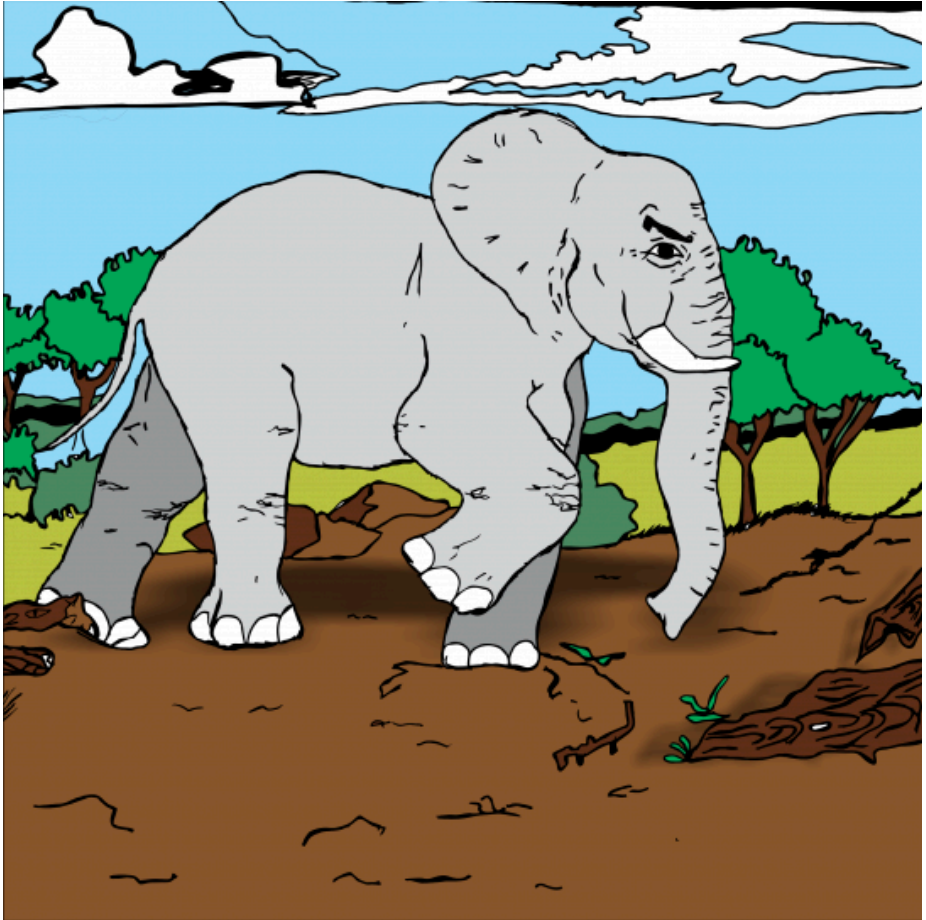
The animals voted Ant as the new king.

Ant agreed to be the leader even though he was afraid.

"It is a big responsibility involving a lot of work," he thought.

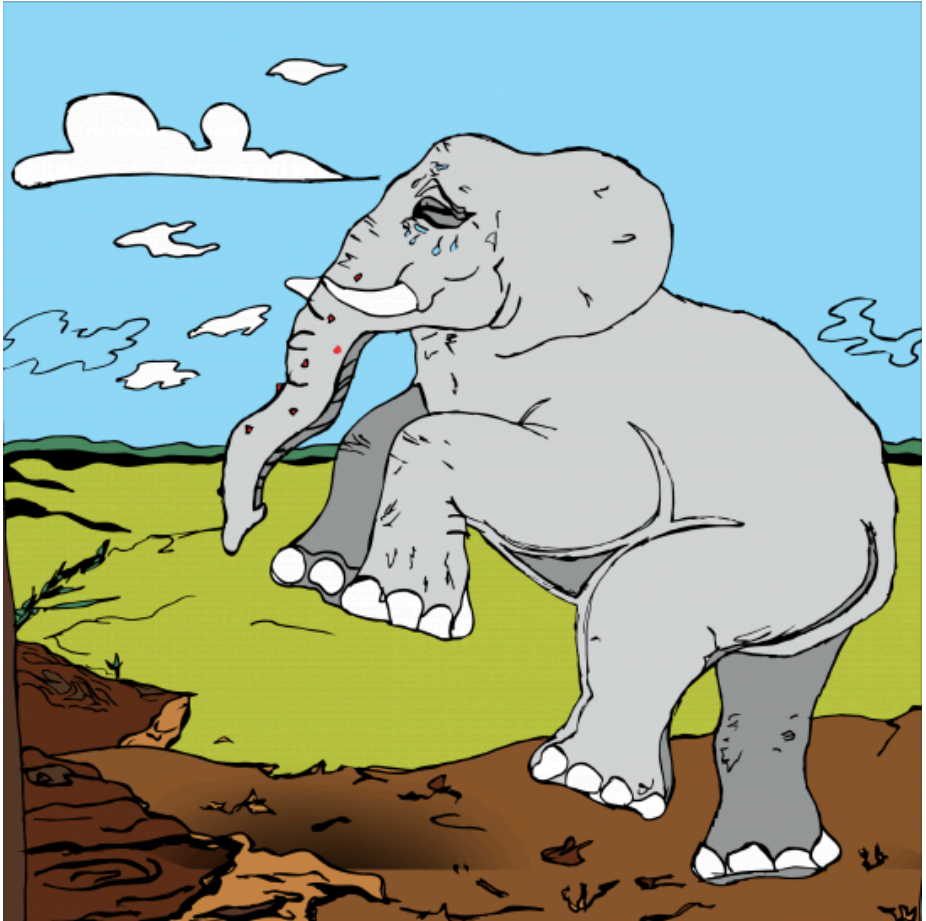The news that Ant had been elected king spread quickly.

It reached the ears of the prince of elephants. He was furious.

The prince of elephants went to the forest to look for food.

He was powerful and did not respect others, particularly not tiny animals like ants.
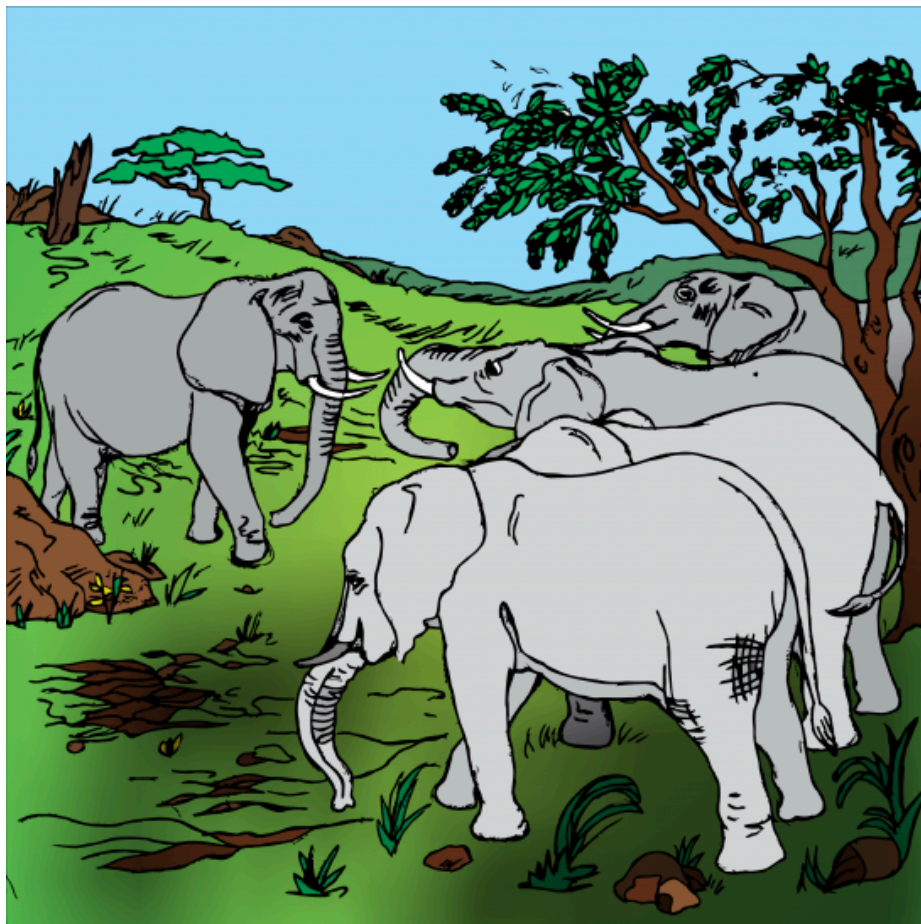
He did not care that he invaded the ants' territory.

The powerful prince crushed a log as he walked. A colony of ants ran out!

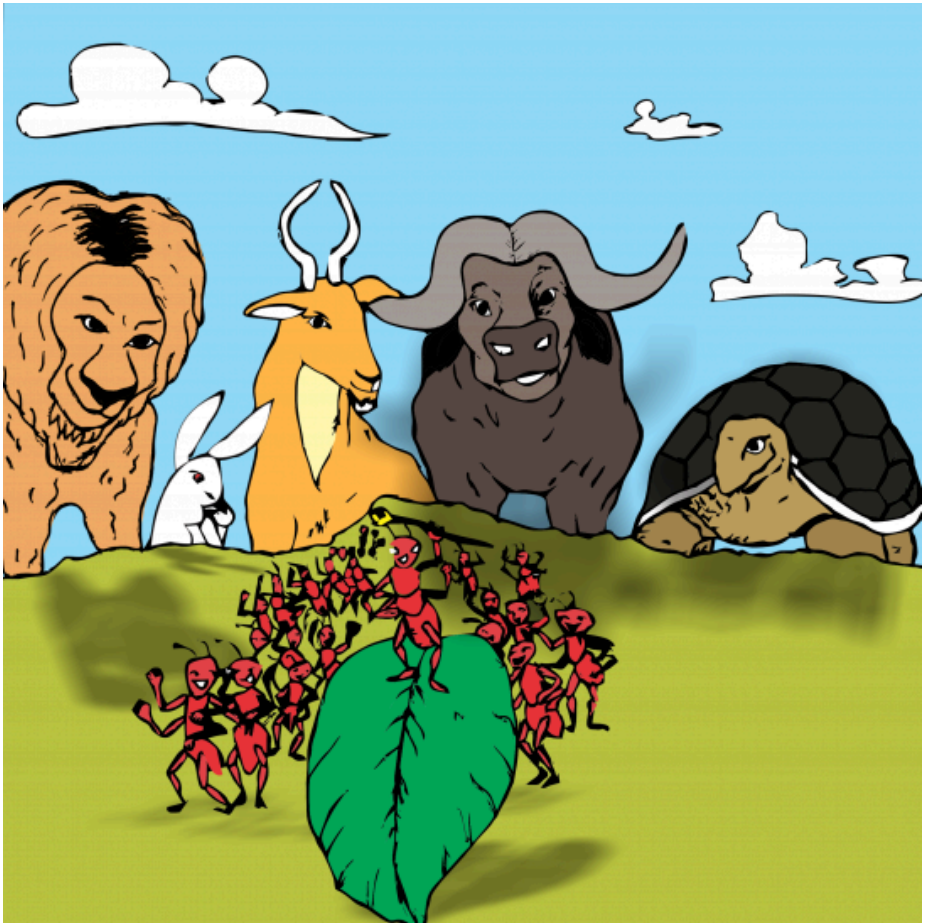King Ant crawled deep inside the elephant's trunk.

Ant said, "You must respect everyone." He bit the prince many times.

The young elephant cried and asked for forgiveness from king Ant.

That day, the prince went home sad and hungry.

The elephants were happy that their prince had returned to them. They did not care that Ant was king.

The ants ruled well even though they were so small.

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Ulwazi Lwethu

Ulwazi Lwethu is a Zenex Foundation funded and initiated project to develop a series of graded and leisure African language readers and teacher support materials. This project is targeted at teaching and supporting learners in the Foundation Phase to improve their home language reading and understanding. The readers have been originated in nine African languages in collaboration with Molteno Institute for Language and Literacies, Nelson Mandela Institute for Education and Rural Development, Room to Read South Africa, and Saide. All resources are developed as Open Education Resources (OER).

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Title: Ant and Elephant
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Translator/s: Sicelo Hlamandana
Illustrator/s: Simangaliso Sibiya & Fezile Twala
Assurer/s: African Storybook
Language: English

African Storybook.org

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