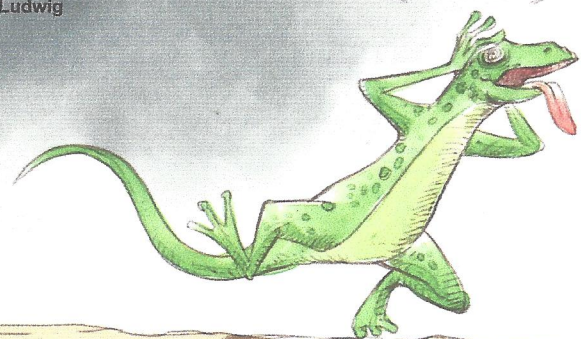
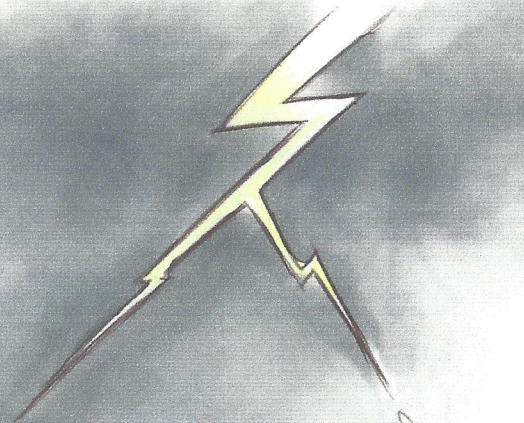




# The Mouse and the Elephant

## Which one really is the most powerful?

An Indian folktale retold by Mike Lockett, *The Normal Storyteller*; edited by Linda Ludwig  
PAGE DESIGN BY ANGELA CHANG / ILLUSTRATED BY ARNOLD LEE



14

Little Mouse stamped his foot on the **jungle** floor, and then put his ear to the ground. He was trying to see if the world was shaking because of his fierce stamp. "I am the strongest animal in the world," he shouted.

"Don't let the elephant hear you say that," said Little Mouse's uncle. "The elephant is powerful. He won't like to hear you brag."

"Where is the elephant?" asked Little Mouse. "I'll show him who is the strongest. I will **stomp** him into the ground." Then Mouse left to look for the elephant.

Little Mouse came to a **lizard**. "Are you an elephant?" asked Little Mouse.

"No, I'm a lizard."

"You are lucky," said Little Mouse. "When I find the elephant, I will stomp him into the ground."

The lizard started to laugh at Mouse. But Mouse stamped his foot. As he stamped, thunder **boomed**. The sound **panicked** the lizard, and he ran off. "I showed HIM how powerful I am," thought Mouse and **marched** off to find the elephant.

### Talk About It

- Which animal in the story is the most foolish? Why?  
- I think the ... is the most foolish because ...
- What happened to make Little Mouse believe he was so strong?  
- Several things happened to ... First ...
- Has a misunderstanding ever happened to make people think something about you that was not true? Explain.  
- Yes, once ... / No, it ...



15

Mouse came to a dog. "Are you an elephant?" he **demanded**.

"I'm a dog," barked the dog.

"You are lucky," said Little Mouse. "When I find the elephant, I will stomp him into the ground."

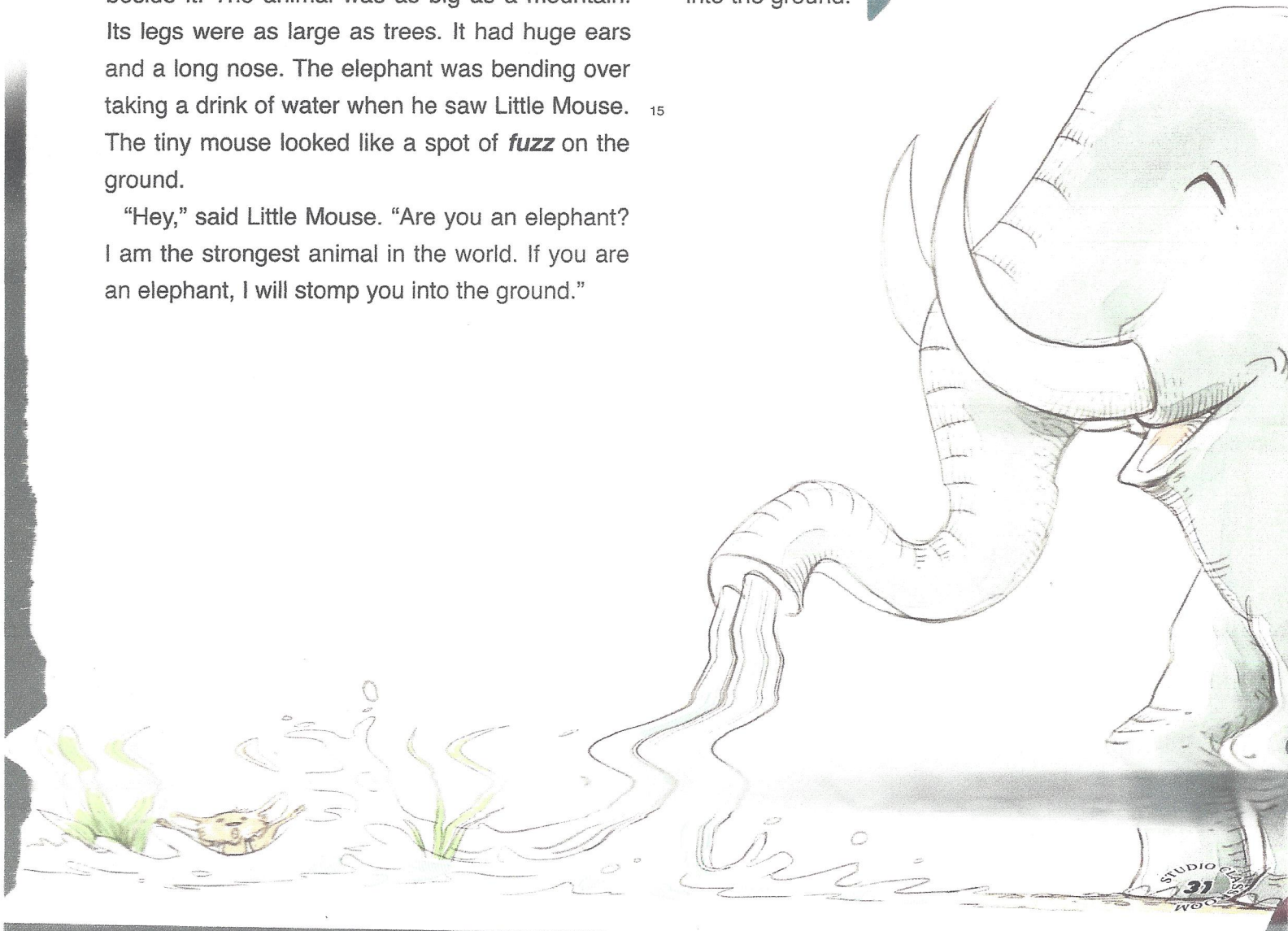
The dog started to **giggle** at Mouse. But Mouse stamped his foot. As he stamped, the dog's master **whistled**. The dog turned and ran the other way. "I showed HIM how powerful I am," thought Mouse. Little Mouse walked until he came to the river. A large gray animal stood beside it. The animal was as big as a mountain. Its legs were as large as trees. It had huge ears and a long nose. The elephant was bending over taking a drink of water when he saw Little Mouse. The tiny mouse looked like a spot of **fuzz** on the ground.

"Hey," said Little Mouse. "Are you an elephant? I am the strongest animal in the world. If you are an elephant, I will stomp you into the ground."

16

The elephant started to laugh at the **ridiculous** animal. As he laughed, water **sprayed** out of his nose and knocked Little Mouse down. He rolled down the path and almost **drowned** in all of the water.

By the time Mouse was able to get up, the elephant had walked away. He had left the foolish mouse **soaking** in a puddle of water. "I see that the elephant knew how powerful I am," said Little Mouse to himself. "He ran away during that storm. He knew that I would have stomped him into the ground."





Little Mouse **informed** his uncle that the elephant had run away rather than fight. His uncle told his friends, who told all of the other animals. Even some people heard Little Mouse's **version** of the story.

Now everyone thinks that elephants are afraid of mice. Only the elephant knows better. In fact, every time the elephant tries to take a drink, he still laughs and **squirts** water out of his nose. 🐭

### Usage Tip

**Only the elephant knows better.** (p. 32, line 7)

當我們說 Someone knows better. 時，表示此人在某事上比其他人知道更多或更有經驗。

- Most of Mary's friends think that Mary is quite poor, but Frances knows better. In fact she has quite a bit of money.

Your turn



### Word Bank

**jungle** (n) ['dʒʌŋɡəl] (熱帶) 叢林

When we were in the **jungle**, we saw many different kinds of animals.

**stomp** (v) [stɒmp] 重踩；跺腳

The little boy **stomped** his foot because he was very angry.

**panic** (v) ['pænik] (使) 驚慌失措

The students **panicked** when their teacher told them they were having a surprise test.

**march** (v) [mɑ:ʃ] 行進；快步走

Audrey **marched** into the house to tell her mother that Johnny had hit her.

**demand** (v) [dɪ'mænd] 堅決請求，強烈要求

Perry **demanded** to know how much money Penny had in her pocket.

**giggle** (v) ['gɪɡəl] 咯咯地笑

The children all **giggled** at the teacher's funny joke.

**whistle** (v) ['wɪsəl] 吹口哨；吹哨子

Whenever she wants her dog to come in from outside, Helen just **whistles** and he comes.

**fuzz** (n) [fʌz] 絨毛

The new blanket left a lot of **fuzz** on the carpet.

**spray** (v) [spreɪ] 噴灑

Marla **sprayed** all the kids with water when they were playing outside.

**drown** (v) [draʊn] (使) 淹死，(使) 溺死

Sam almost **drowned** when he fell in the pool, but his brother saved him.

**inform** (v) [ɪn'fɔ:m] 告知，通知

The teacher **informed** the class that they were going to a museum in the afternoon.

**squirt** (v) [skwɜ:t] 噴射，噴湧

When I bit into my orange, juice **squirted** all over the table.

### More Information

**lizard** (n) ['lɪzəd] 蜥蜴

**boom** (v) [bu:m] 發出隆隆聲

**ridiculous** (adj) [rɪ'dɪkjələs] 荒唐的；愚蠢的

**soak** (v) [sɔ:k] 浸泡；把...濕透

**version** (n) ['vɜ:ʒən] 版本；說法

### Word Bank Focus

**information** (n) [ɪnfə'meɪʃən] 資料；情報

There is a lot of **information** about animals in this nature book.

**informative** (adj) [ɪn'fɔ:mətɪv] 提供資訊的；增長見聞的

The talk I attended about stars was very interesting and **informative**.