

**This document is the text and braille description in this book.**

This has been requested by those reading with braille learners in order that they can understand or assist braille reading.

**ELMER by David McKee (this shows the text in the book)**

*the picture shows a colourful patchwork elephant. (this shows the text of the illustration description)*

**There was once a herd of elephants. Elephants young, elephants old, elephants tall or fat or thin.**

*The picture shows a herd of standing elephants. Elephants like this, that or the other, all different but all happy and all the same colour. All, that is, except Elmer.*

*The picture shows a herd of standing elephants.*

**Elmer was different. Elmer was patchwork.** *The picture shows Elmer, a colourful patchwork elephant.*

**Elmer was yellow and orange and red and pink and purple and blue and green and black and white. Elmer was not elephant colour.**

*The picture shows Elmer a colourful patchwork elephant.*

**It was Elmer who kept the elephants happy. Sometimes he joked with the other elephants, sometimes they joked with him.**

*The picture shows the elephants playing with Elmer.*

**But if there was even a little smile, it was usually Elmer who started it.**

*The picture shows Elmer smiling.*

**One night Elmer couldn't sleep for thinking, and the think that he was thinking was that he was tired of being different.**

*The picture shows Elmer wide awake.*

**"Whoever heard of a patchwork elephant?" he thought. "No wonder they laugh at me."**

*The picture shows the elephants laughing and playing with Elmer.*

**In the morning before the others were really awake, Elmer slipped quietly away, unnoticed.**

*The picture shows one elephant sleeping and Elmer slipping away.*

**As he walked through the jungle, Elmer met other animals. They always said: "Good morning, Elmer."**

*The picture shows the animals in the jungle.*

**Each time, Elmer smiled and said: "Good morning."** *The picture shows Elmer and the animals in the jungle.*

**After a long walk, Elmer found what he was looking for, a large bush. A large bush covered with elephant-coloured berries.**

*The picture shows a large bush with elephant-coloured berries.*

**Elmer caught hold of the bush and shook it and shook it so the berries fell on the ground.**

*The picture shows Elmer shaking the bush.*

**Once the ground was covered in berries, Elmer lay down and rolled over and over – this way and that way and back again.**

*The picture shows Elmer rolling around on the berries.*

**Then he picked up bunches of berries and rubbed himself all over, covering himself with berry juice until there wasn't a sign of ...**

*The picture shows Elmer covering himself in the berries.*

**...any yellow, or orange, or red, or pink, or purple, or blue, or green, or black, or white.**

*The picture shows Elmer's patchwork colour turning into elephant colour.*

**When he had finished, Elmer looked like any other elephant.**

*The picture shows Elmer looking the same as the other elephants.*

**After that Elmer set off back to the herd. On the way, he passed the other animals again. This time each one said to him:**

*The picture shows the animals in the jungle.*

**"Good morning, elephant." And each time Elmer smiled and said: "Good morning," pleased that he wasn't recognised.**

*The picture shows the animals and Elmer in his new colour.*

**When Elmer rejoined the other elephants, they were all standing quietly.**

*The picture shows two rows of elephants standing quietly.*

**None of them noticed Elmer as he worked his way to the middle of the herd.**

*The picture shows the elephants still standing quietly and Elmer amongst them looking just like them.*

**After a while Elmer felt that something was wrong. But what? He looked around: same old jungle, same old bright sky, same...**

*The picture shows the elephants all standing together in the jungle.*

**...old rain cloud that came over from time to time and lastly same old elephants. Elmer looked at them.**

*The picture shows a dark rain cloud hovering over the jungle.*

**The elephants were standing absolutely still. Elmer had never seen them so serious before.**

*The picture shows the elephants standing absolutely still.*

**The more he looked at the serious, silent, still, standing elephants, the more he wanted to laugh. Finally he could bear it no longer.**

*The picture shows the elephants standing still and Elmer looking around.*

**He lifted his trunk and at the top of his voice shouted: BOOO!**

*The picture shows Elmer lifting his trunk and shouting booo.*

**The elephants jumped and fell all ways in surprise. “Oh my gosh and golly!” they said – and then saw Elmer, helpless with...**

*The picture shows the elephants falling around.*

**...laughter. “Elmer,” they said. “It must be Elmer.” Then the other elephants laughed too, as they had never laughed before.**

*The picture shows the elephants falling around and Elmer laughing.*

**As they laughed, the rain cloud burst and when the rain fell on Elmer, his patchwork started to show again.**

*The picture shows Elmer’s colour turning back to patchwork colours.*

**The elephants still laughed as Elmer was washed back to normal. “Oh Elmer,” gasped an old elephant.**

*The picture shows elephants laughing.*

**“You’ve played some good jokes, but this has been the biggest laugh of all. It didn’t take you long to show your true colours.”**

*The picture shows an old elephant shouting next to Elmer.*

**“We must celebrate this day every year,” said another. “This will be Elmer’s Day.**

*The picture shows another elephant talking.*

**All elephants must decorate themselves and Elmer will decorate himself elephant colour.”**

*The picture shows Elmer in elephant-colour and the other elephants all brightly coloured.*

**That is exactly what the elephants do. On one day a year they decorate themselves and parade.**

*The picture shows the elephants decorated in different colours.*

**On that day if you happen to see an elephant ordinary elephant colour, you will know it must be Elmer.**

*The picture shows Elmer showing off his elephant colour.*

**THE END**

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