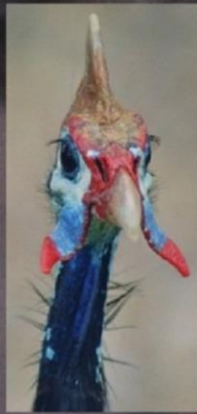


# Great African Storybook

*Stories from the African Wilderness  
For children of all ages*



*Written by Leigh Kemp  
Inspired by Africa*

## **The Great African Storybook**

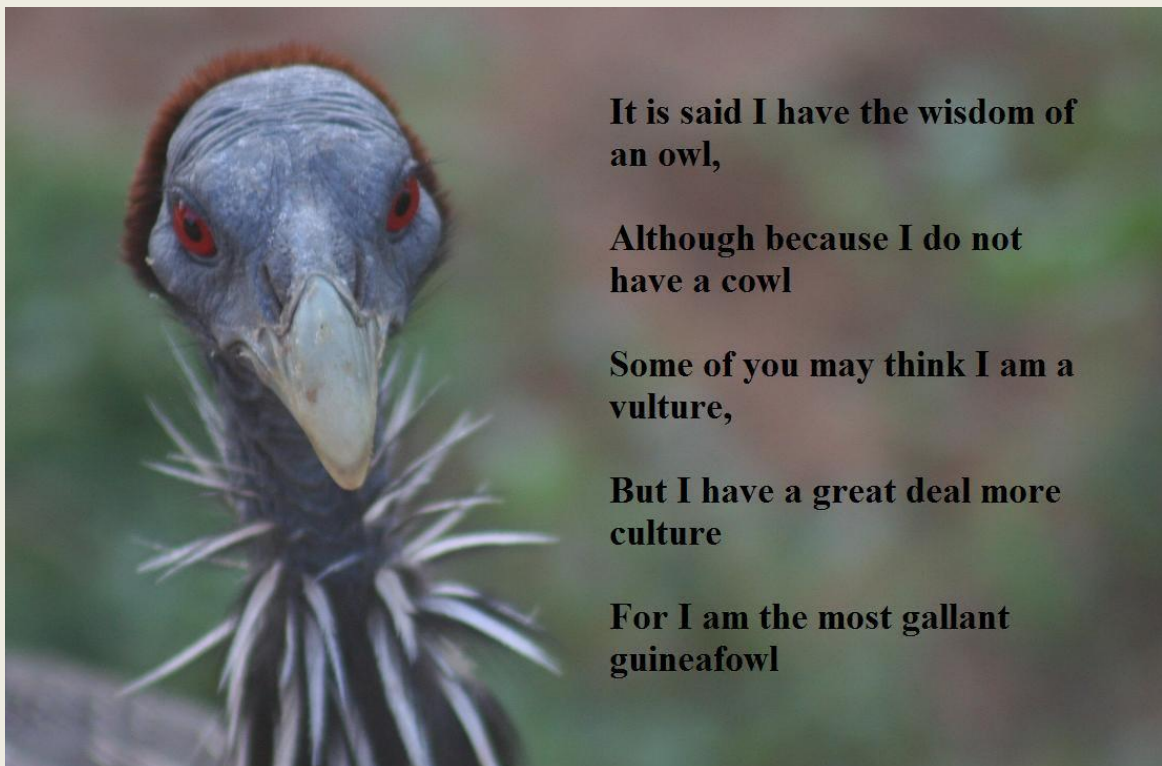
The Storybook is a collection of stories, rhymes and general doodling's written from a lifetime of observing the natural world. The stories are written for children of all ages, some with a message, some simply to crack a smile and others just plain crazy

The Story is in three parts

**Part 1: Great African Storybook – stories and rhymes Inspired by Africa**

**Part 2: Aardvark is First – animal fun with words**

**Part 3: Great Kruger Storybook – fun in the Greater Kruger Park**



## The Ant Who Roared

The lion was boasting to all the other animals that he had the loudest roar in the entire kingdom—and not one dared to disagree. Just as he was about to demonstrate his power, a small voice piped up:

**"I think maybe I can roar louder than you."**

It took the animals a moment to realize who had spoken. Then they saw him—standing alone in front of the lion, now irritated by the interruption—was a tiny ant.

**"You? Ha ha ha ha ha!"** The lion laughed so hard he nearly choked.

The other animals joined in the laughter. When it finally died down, the ant called everyone closer and explained:

**"I do have a louder roar than the lion, but you can't hear it because I don't have his great big mouth to carry the sound. If the lion agrees, I'll crawl inside him and roar from there—then you'll hear just how loud I can be."**

The lion considered the challenge. After all, how loud could a tiny ant really be? Eventually, he agreed. But after some discussion, it was decided the ant would crawl into the lion's ear instead of his mouth, as the ant admitted he was afraid the lion might swallow him.

It took some time for the ant to reach the lion's ear. When he finally did, he turned and waved to the other animals before entering the great cavern. Most of them were more amused than convinced—but the ant had a clever plan.

Once inside, the ant plucked one of the lion's ear hairs and used it to tickle his way deeper toward the eardrum. The lion began to twitch and growl in frustration. But the ant didn't stop. The closer he got, the more he tickled.

Before long, the irritation became unbearable—and the lion let out the greatest roar the animals had ever heard.

The ant quickly stopped tickling and scurried out. Standing proudly on the lion's ear, he waved to the others. They were stunned—none had ever heard a roar so loud. As for the lion, he was so relieved the tickling had stopped that he simply smiled.

The ant climbed down and went about his chores with satisfaction. And to this day, the animals who witnessed that mighty roar remain wary of getting too close to him.

As for the lion—he still roams the plains, roaring louder and louder, hoping one day to outdo the ant.

### **Moral:**

You don't have to be big or strong to make a powerful impact

## **Man and the wilderness – a selection of stories of man's effect on the wilderness**

### **The Hole in the Ozone**

All creatures were complaining about the heat  
And the hot ground that was burning their feet  
It was never like this before humans came along  
Why did they always seem to do things wrong

It was the humans who put the hole in the ozone  
Making all the wild creatures curse and moan  
For the fierce sun beat down with no remorse  
But humans said it was only the season's course

The animals decided to gather for a big debate  
To discuss how to alter their looming fate  
The speeches went on long into the night  
But by morning there was no solution in sight

*Finally elephant rose and began to speak*

'This is really not the place to curse and moan  
About the big human-made hole in the ozone  
Instead it is time for us all to take a stand  
For humans never asked to settle our land  
It is time to take action and fight the curse  
Before the situation becomes much worse  
So let us plan and decide what we can do  
Before humans ensure our time is through'

The animals all nodded and generally agreed  
That a plan had to be hatched at great speed  
Hyena mentioned he could carry off their things  
And bee said he could manufacture more stings  
While mosquito said he would spread malaria  
Through each and every human inhabited area  
But it was decided that would not be enough  
And each one of them would have to be tough

For all agreed humans were very intrusive  
And wanted the whole earth to be exclusive  
They wondered how best to deal with a creature  
That seemed to not have any positive feature

None of them knew what they wanted to achieve  
Except wanting the wasteful humans to leave  
Someone suggested they simply ask them to go



'Let's just ask the humans to show compassion  
And keep us out their commerce and fashion  
We will simply ask them to leave our place  
And go and live in and abuse their own space'  
But most figured this idea to be mostly in vain  
For greed had already driven the humans insane

But while the animals were trying to be stealthy  
The humans divided up the land for the wealthy  
And said it was to protect for future generations  
Selling the idea in misinformation and incantations

What the future is for the land nobody can tell  
For humans will continue to rape, maim and sell  
So the hole in the ozone will continue to grow  
And the animals will have nowhere else to go

### **When you smile**

When you smile the world smiles too!  
This may be true but often a smile is taken as something other than friendly.

When zebra smiles  
The world smiles too  
When wildebeest smiles  
The world sniggers  
When lion smiles  
The world is grateful  
But when hyena smiles  
The world wonders why



People will always have their own interpretation of why you are smiling so just go ahead and smile.

## Part 2: Aardvark is First

**Aardvark is First is a collection of fun rhymes and verses that show the fun side of the English language – allowing kids to learn language through rhyming verse**



### **Aardvark is first of all words**

Who chose beasts by name  
And gave aardvark his fame  
Who selected aardwolf next  
Be it only in matters of text

Before the snakes and tall trees  
And creatures of the seven seas  
Before the light of the new day  
And all those that pass its way  
Before all beasts in great herds  
Aardvark is the first of all words

### **All the animals cursed**

When Aardvark was first  
The other animals cursed  
When Aardwolf was next  
All others were perplexed

How could this really be  
But it was all there to see  
For it is written in words  
For all the bees and birds

There was no reason to dance and sing  
If aardvark was really first in everything  
So a delegation was sent to lion to hear  
If man's alphabet was anything to fear

Lion had to be careful with what he said  
For he did not want them to be misled  
He knew it was man who was to blame  
For making him king of beasts in name

He pondered a while before he spoke  
Worried at what his words might stoke  
He said whether they were wild or tame  
All creatures on earth were the same

### **Part 3: The Great Kruger Storybook – Stories from Greater Kruger Park**

#### **Noah's Ark in Kruger**

It is often said that the Kruger Park  
Is so very much like old Noah's Ark  
With wild animals and trees galore  
Who would surely want for more

With names like Skakuza, Shingwedzi and others  
Kruger is a place for all kids, fathers and mothers  
It is a park for all the seasons, cold, heat and rain  
Where nothing can ever be said to be inane

From the north to the south Kruger is paradise  
A place you will want to visit more than twice  
You can have sundowners looking from a ridge  
Or have dinner under the stars at Crocodile Bridge

In Kruger the A to Z of animals is found  
The tall, the short, thin and the round  
Aardvark to Zebra and all in between  
The timid and wise, the scary and mean

There are lions and buffalo and all the Big Five  
But this is not all that brings the Kruger alive  
It is the sunrises and sunsets waking the senses  
And destroying our unnatural human defences

But if the Big Five is all you desire  
Then you will find Kruger to inspire  
But it is better to enjoy all you see  
Every beetle, impala, bird and tree

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