

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



**It is said I have the wisdom of
an owl,**

**Although because I do not
have a cowl**

**Some of you may think I am a
vulture,**

**But I have a great deal more
culture**

**For I am the most gallant
guineafowl**

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 Skukuza, 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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