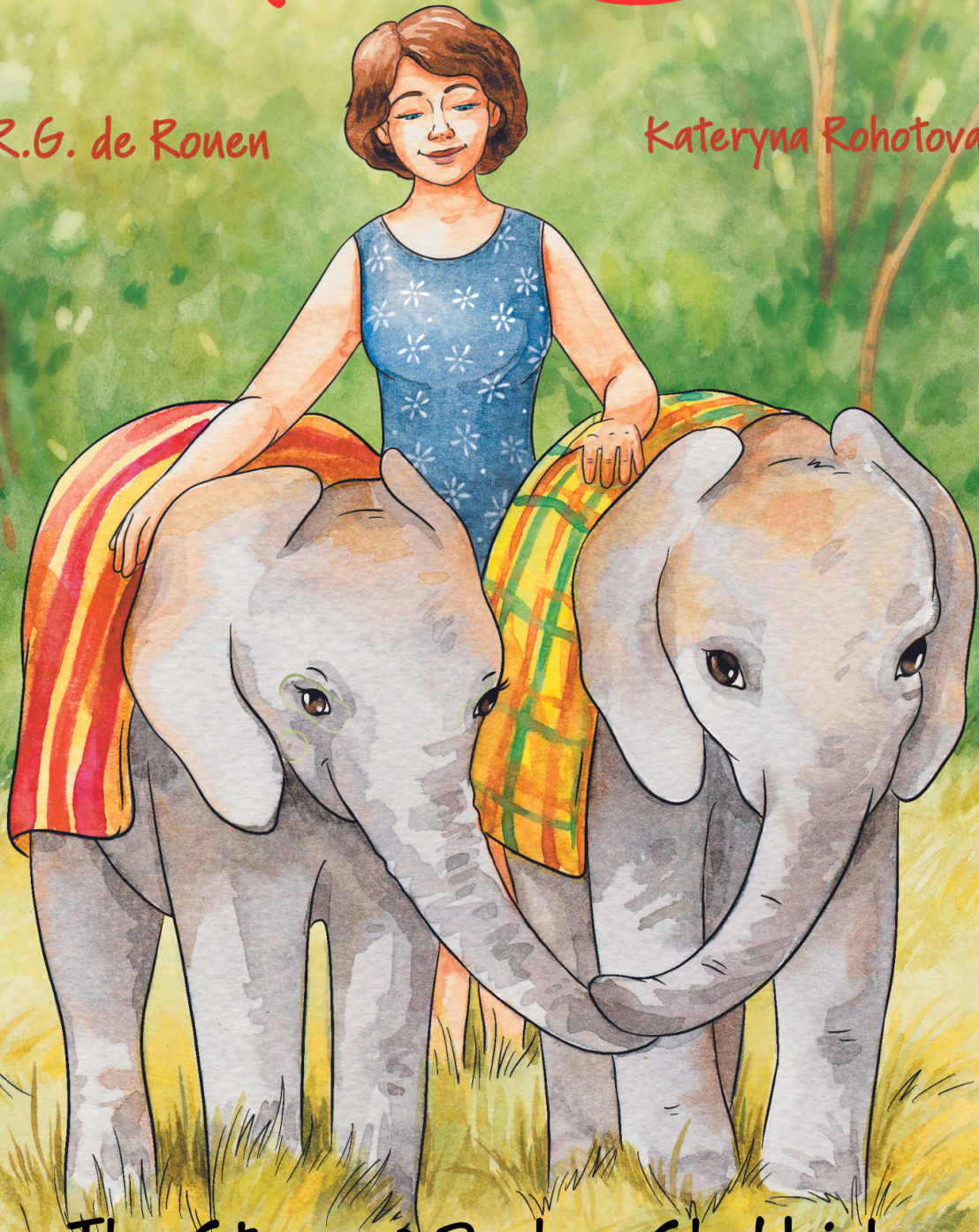


Mother to Elephants

R.G. de Rouen

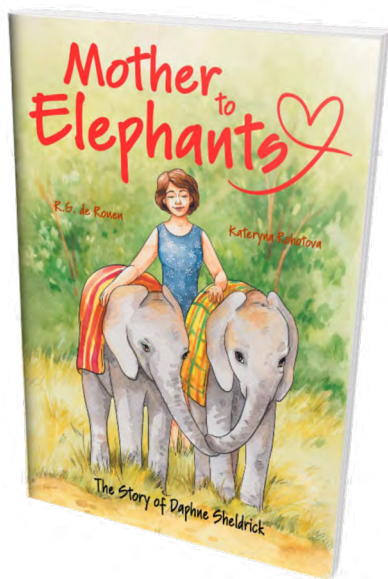
Kateryna Rohotova



The Story of Daphne Sheldrick

TEACHER'S GUIDE

by R.G. de Rouen



"A sweet and inspiring children's book that combines an amazing true story with lovely illustrations and interesting elephant facts. Perfect for young, aspiring conservationists." - Tusk.org

"If you only grab one 'animal story' for young readers this year, grab THIS ONE! A compelling true story, it's a definite WINNER!" - Reedsy Discovery



BOOK SUMMARY

No doubt you've heard the saying, "Mother knows best!" But what if the baby is a six-hundred-pound elephant, and the mother is of the two-legged kind? Would the saying still hold true?

Mothering elephants is what Daphne Sheldrick did her entire life. As a young girl, she was put in charge of wounded or abandoned animals. As a grownup, Daphne and her dedicated team saved and nurtured countless elephants.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

R.G. de Rouen is an award-winning children's author known for creating heartwarming and adventurous stories that captivate young readers' imaginations. With a background in education and a passion for storytelling, R.G. crafts tales that inspire a love of reading and celebrate the power of imagination.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kateryna Rohotova is an illustrator from Ukraine. She has worked for eight years as a 2D artist in the gaming industry, but in 2018 she became a freelance artist. Now her favorite part of her job is creating watercolor illustrations for children's books. Her hobbies include handmade crafts, photography, cooking, and aquariums, but drawing is the main passion of her life.

 rgderouen.com

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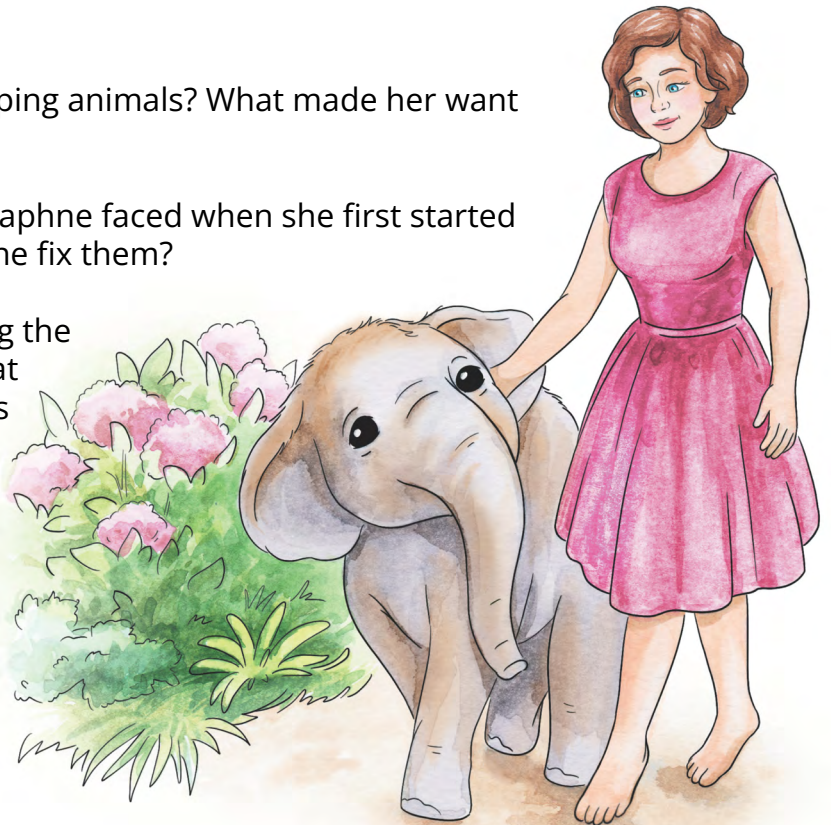
LITERACY DISCUSSION

PRE-READING

1. What do you already know about elephants? Where do they live, what do they eat, and how do they talk to each other?
2. Have you ever heard of Daphne Sheldrick before? What do you think she does with elephants?
3. Why do you think baby animals sometimes need help from people? What challenges might they face without their moms?
4. What do you think it means to “take care” of a wild animal? Why might someone need to do that?
5. Why do you think it’s important to keep animals like elephants safe?

AFTER READING

1. How did Daphne Sheldrick start helping animals? What made her want to do that?
2. What were some of the problems Daphne faced when she first started helping baby elephants? How did she fix them?
3. What did Daphne learn from helping the tiniest elephant, Aisha? How did that help her help other elephant babies in the future?
4. Why do you think Daphne wanted to make sure the elephants she helped could go back to the wild? Why is that important?
5. What were some of the coolest facts about elephants that you learned from the book? Which one surprised you the most?



LITERACY ACTIVITY

1. Heroes of the Earth Investigative Writing Challenge

R.G. de Rouen decided to pick a lady who works to save elephants who have become orphaned or injured. Have your student pick an animal they are interested in to find out if they are endangered and if there are animal heroes trying to make a difference and research them for a short biography profile.

2. Elephant Pair Big Book Hunt Scavenger Hunt

Create an "Elephant Pair Big Book Hunt" in your classroom or library. Have students search for book pairs, one fiction and one non-fiction featuring the same or similar animals. Use this activity to introduce genre differences, using *Mother to Elephants* as an example of a non-fiction picture book biography that may appear fictional.

3. Animal Interview

Encourage children to write an "Interview With A...(Insert animal here)" own adventure stories inspired by author and writing coach, Ralph Fletcher's, *Interview With A Coho Salmon*. They can share their stories with the class or create a class book.

Step 1: Gather interesting facts about your animal

Step 2: Write in an interview/script style

Step 3: Include humor throughout!

4. A Day in the Life of an Elephant Timeline

Compare how elephants live with how people live. Students draw a timeline of an elephant's day (eating, walking, drinking at a waterhole, sleeping, etc.)

5. Safari Journal

Ask students to imagine they are on their own safari adventure, exploring the wild and encountering different animals along the way. Have them write a diary entry describing the animals they see, what they look like, and what they are doing. Encourage students to include their feelings and any exciting or unexpected moments from their journey.



MATH

FOR YOUNGER KIDS

1. Counting Elephant Herds

Objective: Students count groups of elephants and compare quantities.

Activity: Use pictures of elephant herds or toy elephants for students to count, group, and compare sets.

Common Core Standards:

1.NBT.B.3: Compare two-digit numbers.

2. Measuring Elephant Footprints

Objective: Compare the size of an elephant's footprint to a student's footprint.

Activity: Trace an elephant footprint (on poster board) and have students step inside. Measure using non-standard units (blocks, hands).

Common Core Standards:

K.MD.A.2: Compare objects using measurable attributes.

1.MD.A.2: Measure lengths using non-standard units.

FOR OLDER KIDS

3. Feeding Elephants: Simple Addition & Subtraction

Objective: Practice multiplication and division using actual food portions.

Activity: The rescued orphan elephants at the Sheldrick Nursery drink 2 bottles of specialist formula milk every three hours, day and night. How many bottles would it take to feed an orphan for a full day?

Common Core Standards:

3.OA.A.3: Use multiplication and division within 100 to solve word problems in situations involving equal groups, arrays, and measurement quantities.

(Students can determine how many bottles an elephant drinks in a given time frame.)

3. Elephant Weight Sorting by Average/Mean:

Objective: Compare and order elephant weights from smallest to largest.

Activity: Provide three to four weight values (e.g., baby elephant = 200 lbs, young adult elephant = 2,000 lbs, adult elephant = 12,000 lbs) and have students order them from lightest to heaviest.

Common Core Standards:

6.SP.B.5.C: Summarize numerical data sets in relation to their context, including describing the nature of the attribute under investigation. (Understanding averages in a real-world context.)

SCIENCE

1. What Do Elephants Need to Live?

Objective: Learn about food, water, and shelter for elephants.

Activity: Students draw an elephant and add food (leaves, water, etc.) to its environment.

NGSS Standards:

K-LS1-1: Identify basic needs of plants and animals.

2. Elephant Trunk Experiment

Objective: Explore how elephants use their trunks.

Activity: Have students use a straw (like an elephant's trunk) to move small objects without hands.

NGSS Standards:

1-LS1-1: Identify how animals use body parts for survival.

3. STEM activity: Ice Cream In A Bag (included in the Activity Booklet)

Objective: Making ice cream! Introduce the "Ice Cream in a Bag" experiment mentioned in the book and provide students with the necessary materials (ziplock bags, ice, salt, cream, sugar, flavorings).

Activity: Guide students through the process of making ice cream while explaining the science behind it, particularly the role of salt in lowering the freezing point of water.

NGSS Standards:

K-ESS2-1: Use a model to represent relationships in the natural world.

4. Elephant Communication Sounds

Objective: Learn how elephants communicate using sounds and body language.

Activity: Listen to recordings of elephant trumpets and have students recognize differences between the meanings of the sounds. For example alarm vs. contentment.

NGSS Standards:

1-LS1-2: Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive.



ARTS AND CRAFTS

1. Elephant Handprint Art

Objective: Create an elephant using handprints.

Materials: Acrylic paint, paper

Standards:

VA:Cr1.2.Ka: Create artwork using various tools.

2. Paper Plate Elephant Masks

Objective: Make an elephant mask using paper plates.

Materials: Paper plate, paint, scissors, colored construction paper, rubber band

Standards:

VA:Cr2.1.1a: Use various materials to make art.

3. Savannah Sunset Silhouettes

Objective: Paint a sunset with elephant cutouts.

Materials: Paper, colored paper, paints

Standards:

VA:Cr2.1.2a: Create art that represents nature.

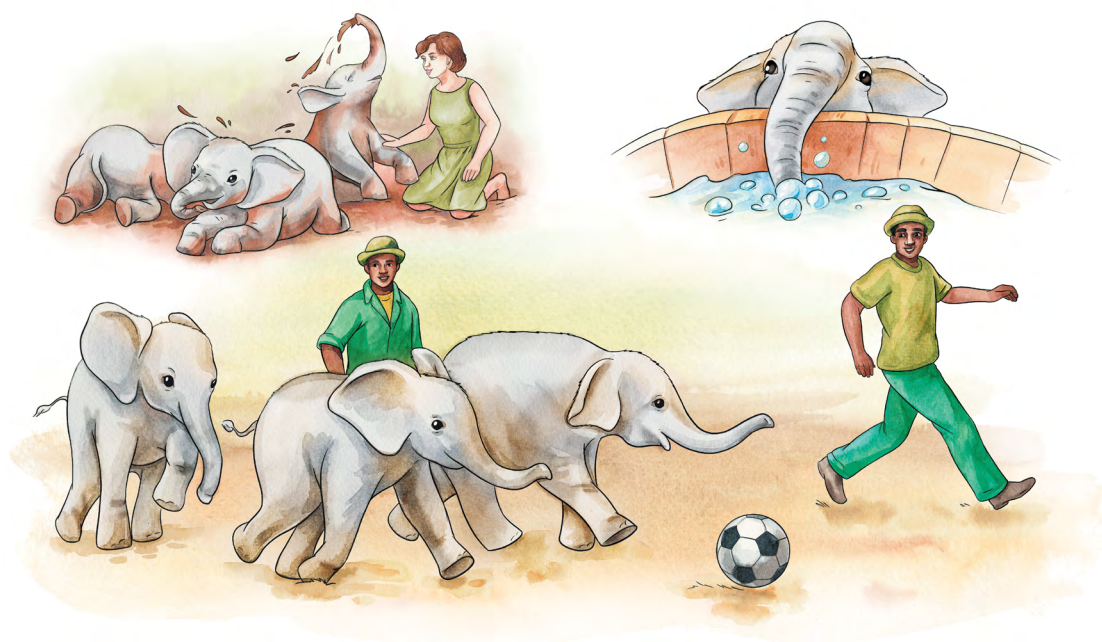
4. Paper Mache Elephant

Objective: Gain a new skill by forming a paper mache elephant to hang on a wall.

Materials: Newspaper, card paper, acrylic paints, flour, water

Standards:

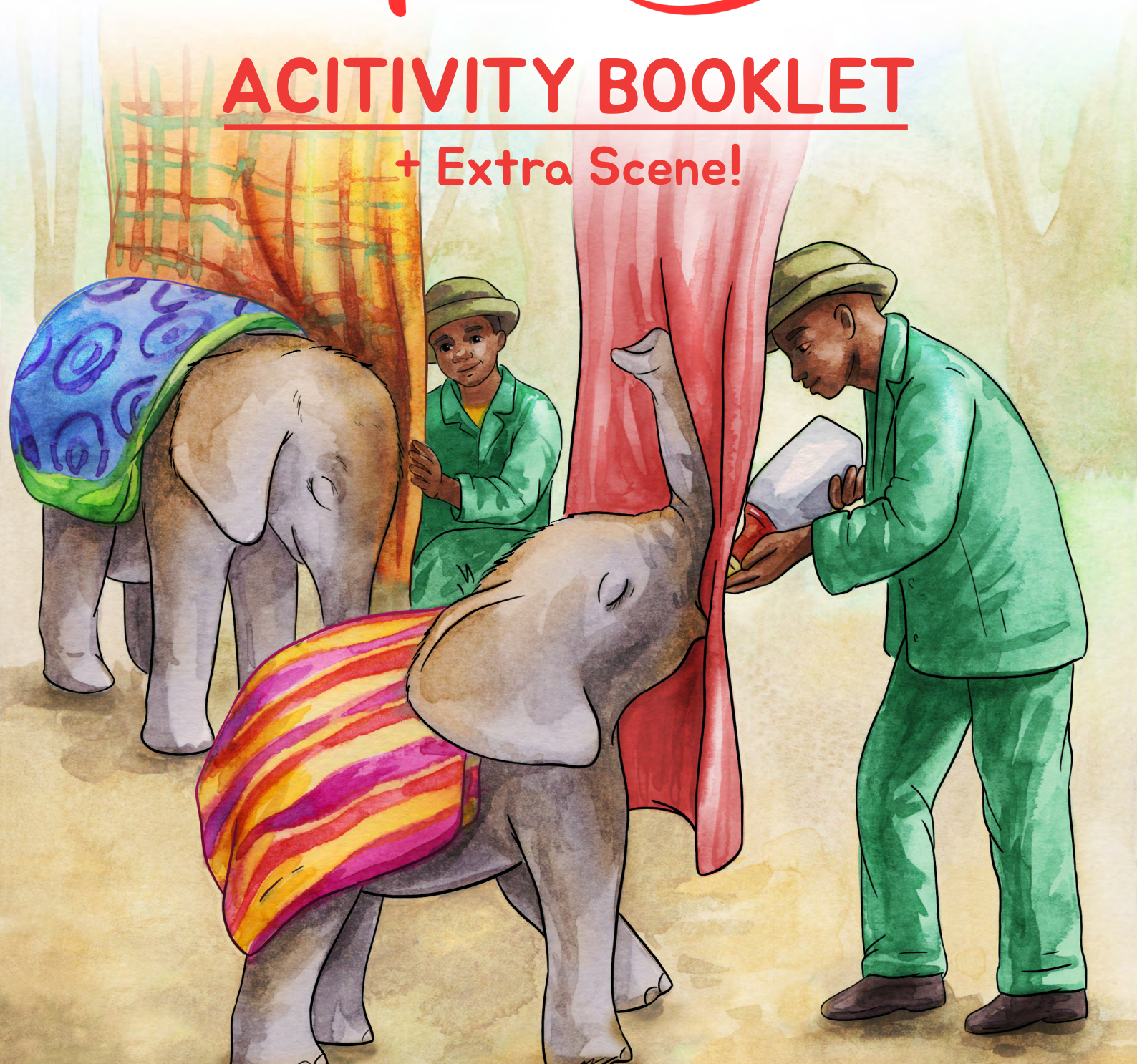
VA:Cr2.1.2a: Create art that represents nature.



Mother to Elephants

ACTIVITY BOOKLET

+ Extra Scene!



Thank you so much for purchasing my book!

As a big thank you I thought I would show you an extra scene that didn't get included in my final version of the book. Even though it was a favorite scene of mine, authors sometimes have to make the difficult decision on what stays in and what comes out.

And last, but not least, I have included a yummy science experiment you can do in your own kitchen. It's called 'ICE CREAM IN A BAG'.

Enjoy!

R.G. de Rouen



Extra Scene



Even when thunder clouds loomed and the quiet was disturbed by bursts of hail, Daphne and her brother and sister would jump for joy.

For hailstones meant...
Ice cream!

Quickly Daphne and her brother and sister scooped up the little rocks of ice as their mother dashed to the kitchen to prepare the mixture.
Then, ROLL, ROLL, ROLL

HOW TO MAKE HOMEMADE ICE-CREAM



JUST LIKE DAPHNE DID (NO HAILSTONES NEEDED!)

Daphne had to wait a long time for her ice cream. It only rained hail about every three years when she was growing up. With that long a wait, she said it was the best ice cream ever!

You don't need to wait for hailstones to make ice cream. All you need is a plastic zipblock baggie and 15 minutes! Top with any of your favorite toppings and enjoy homemade ice cream instantly!

INGREDIENTS

1 **cup** half-and-half cream
2 **Tbsp** granulated sugar
1/2 **tsp** pure vanilla extract
3 **cups** ice cubes
1/3 **cup** kosher salt
Toppings of your choice!

DIRECTIONS

1. In a small resealable plastic zipblock bag, combine half-and-half cream, sugar, and vanilla. Push out excess air and seal.
2. Into a large resealable plastic zipblock bag, combine ice and salt. Place small bag inside the bigger bag and shake vigorously, 7 to 10 minutes, until the cream has hardened.
3. Remove from bag and enjoy with your favorite ice cream toppings!



Source: Delish.com

