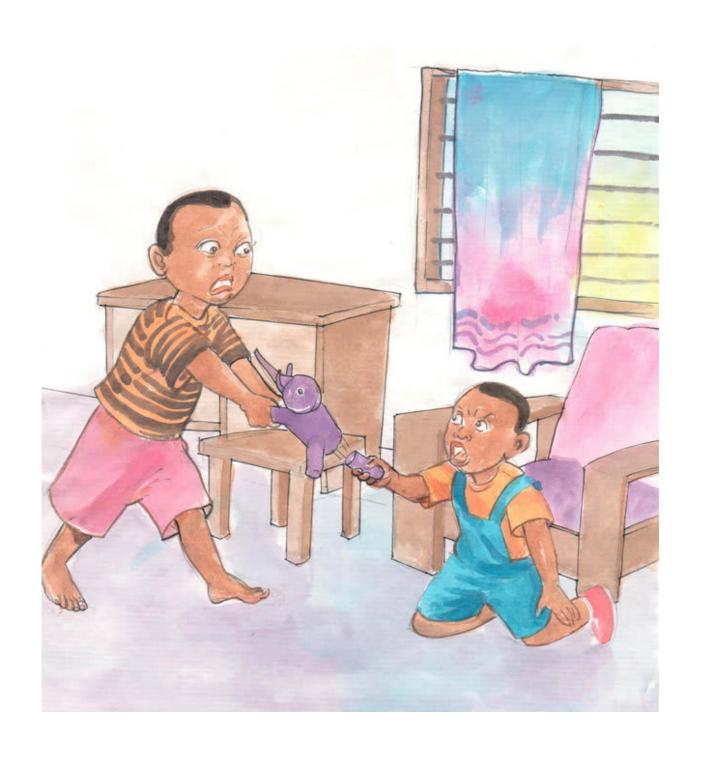




Room to Read®

Level 3

Dira and Chaku Authors: Hellen Kimaro, Hellen Kimaro Illustrators: Godwin Chipenya, John William Translator: Alisha Berger



Dira and his younger brother, Chaku, were fighting over a toy elephant. The elephant belonged to Dira. "Give it

back!" Dira screamed. He pushed Chaku.



Their mother was angry. "Dira, you must learn to share with your brother!" Dira stomped back to his

room, climbed onto the bed, and covered himself with sheets. He dozed off.



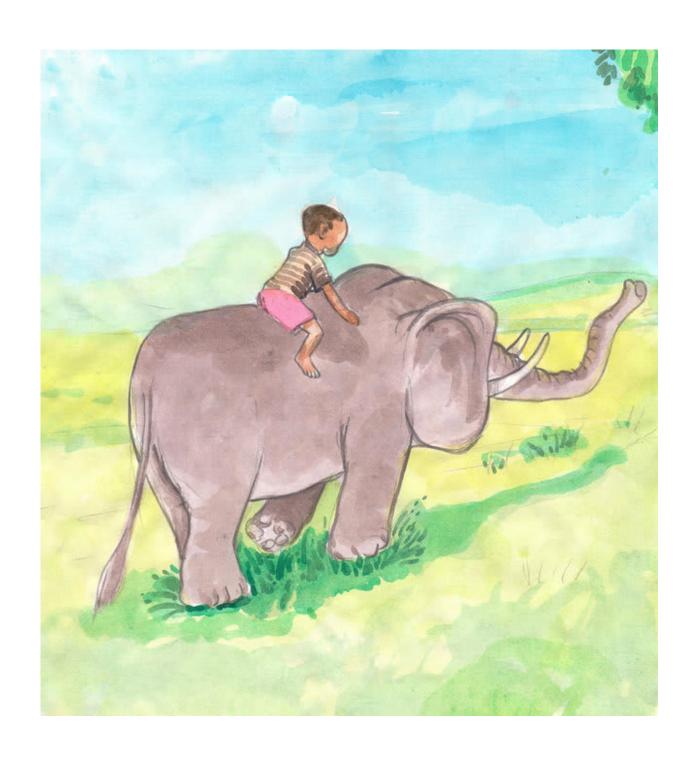


Dira woke up early in the morning to find no one at home. He called out for his mother and brother, but there was no answer.



Dira went over to Chaku's room. He noticed a huge collection of toys there, like balls and cars. He even had

books! Chaku also had a new pair of shoes. Dira's shoes were old. If Chaku had so much great stuff, why should Dira have to share his elephant?



Dira decided to run away. Suddenly, a large herd of elephants appeared out of nowhere! Dira couldn't outrun

them. Instead, he swung on the tusk of one elephant, up onto his back.



Dira played with the elephants. After some time, he found Chaku kneeling under a tree.



All of a sudden, one of the elephants charged at his younger brother. Chaku jumped up. He started running, running, RUNNING!

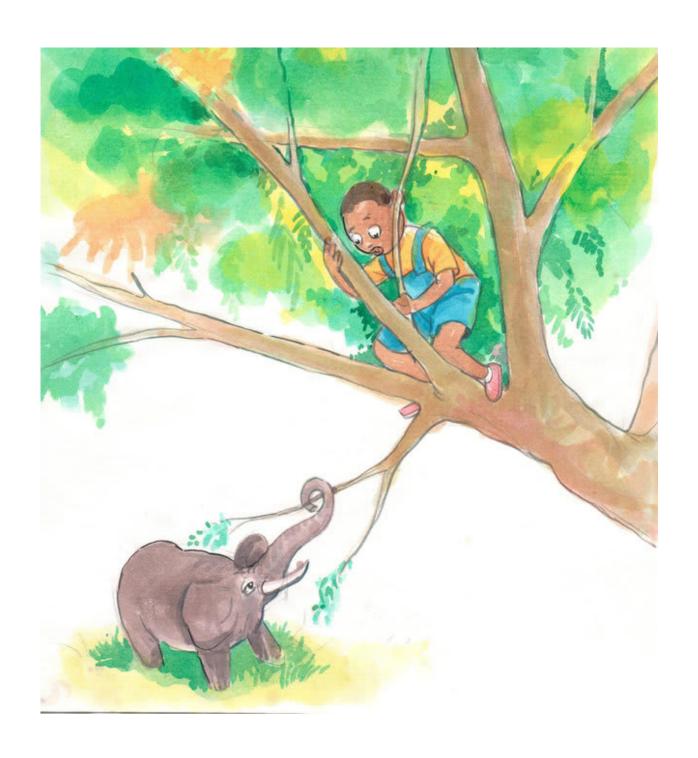


"Chaku! Chaku!" Dira shouted.
"Climb a tree!" The elephants kept charging. Chaku scrambled up the

nearest tree. He was breathing heavily. "Dira!" Chaku screamed. "Brother! Please help me!"



"Tell your friend not to hurt my little brother," Dira pleaded with his elephant. But the other elephant just snarled.



The angry elephant pulled at tree leaves. It yanked on branches, trying

to toss Chaku out of the tree. Would Dira reach his brother in time?



Dira leapt from the back of his elephant into the tree. He climbed to

Chaku's branch. "Take my hand!" Dira instructed.



But just as Chaku grasped Dira's hand, an elephant plucked Dira right off the branch. The elephant threw Dira to the ground!



"Mother! Help us!" the boys screamed.



Dira heard his mother's voice. "Don't be afraid," she said. She gave him a hug. "You just had a bad dream." Chaku had heard the screams and ran to Dira's room. "Do you want to play tomorrow morning?" Chaku asked. "Okay," Dira smiled. "We can both play with my toy elephant."



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Dira and Chaku (English) Dira has a fight with his brother. But, when he sees his brother stuck in a tree and an angry elephant snarling below, he has to make a choice. Can Dira save his brother? Does he want to? This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



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