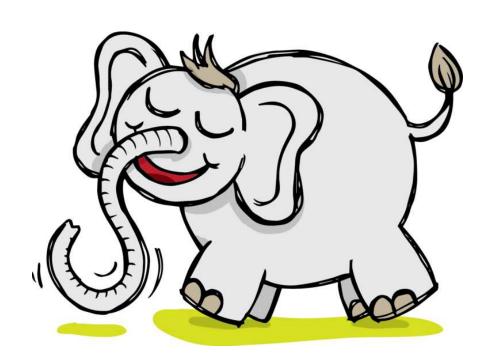
Mtoto Wa Tembo Mdadisi

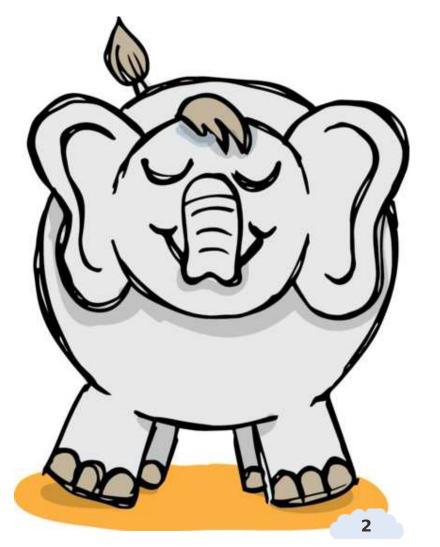
Judith Baker and Lorato Trok Kiswahili





Kila mtu anafahamu kuwa tembo ana mkonga mrefu.

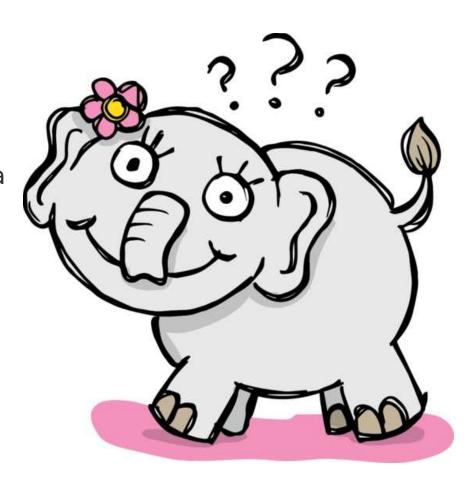




Lakini hapo kale, pua la tembo lilikuwa fupi na nono.

Lilikuwa kama kiatu kilichowekwa katikati mwa uso wake. Siku moja tembo akazaa mtoto aliyekuwa mdadisi.

Alikuwa na swali kwa kila mnyama aliyemuona.

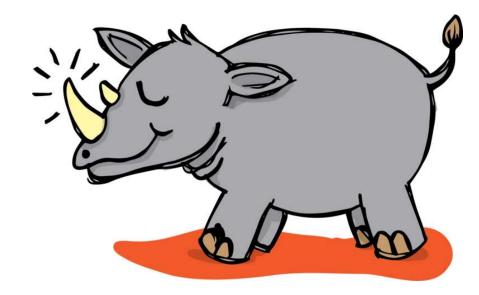


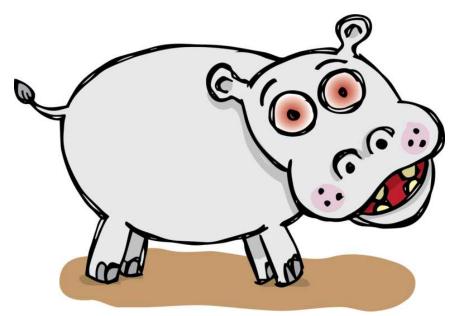


Mtoto wa tembo alimdadisi twiga.

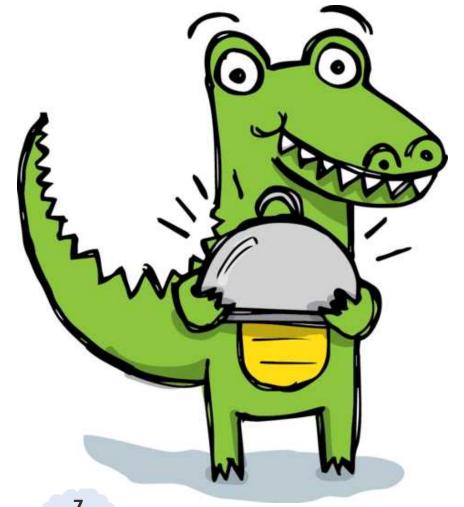
"Kwa nini shingo lako ni refu?" aliuliza. Pia alidadisi kuhusu kifaru.

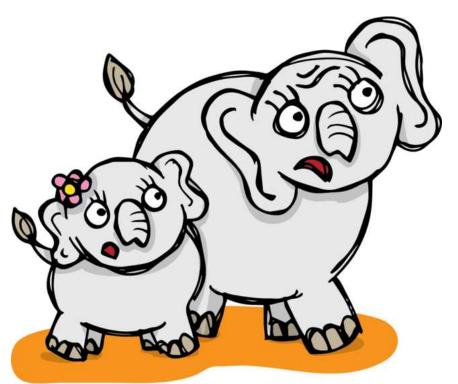
"Ni kwa nini pembe yako ina ncha iliyochongoka sana?"





Mtoto wa tembo pia alimdadisi kiboko, "Kwa nini una macho mekundu?" alimuuliza. "Hivi wewe huwa unakula nini?" Alimdadisi mamba.

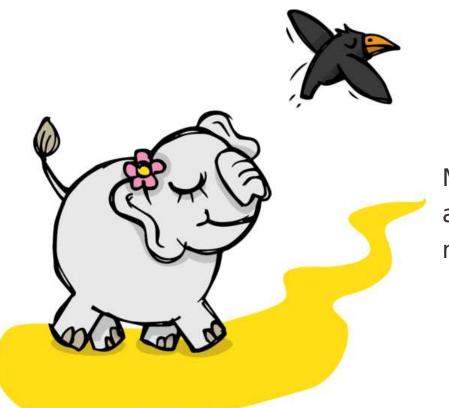




"Mwanangu usiulize wanyama maswali kama hayo," mama yake alimwambia.

Aliondoka akiwa kanuna na kwenda kucheza. Lakini Kunguru mwerevu alisema upesi, "Nifuate twende mtoni. Kule utaona ambacho mamba hula jioni".

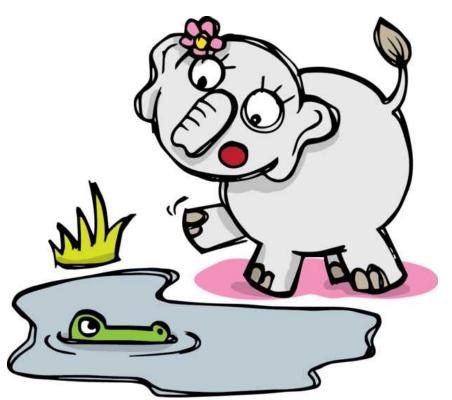




Mtoto wa Tembo alimfuata Kunguru mpaka mtoni. Alijipenyeza kwenye mianzi na kusimama kwenye kingo ya mto.

Alitazama ndani ya maji na kuuliza, "Mamba mwenyewe yuko wapi?"





"Habari," jiwe lilisema hapo karibu na mto.

"Habari ni nzuri," alijibu Mtoto wa Tembo, kisha akasema. "Labda unaweza ukanieleza mamba hula chakula gani jioni?" "Inama kidogo na nitakwambia mamba hula chakula gani," lilisema jiwe lile.

Mtoto wa tembo aliinama chini karibu kabisa na jiwe lile kisha...

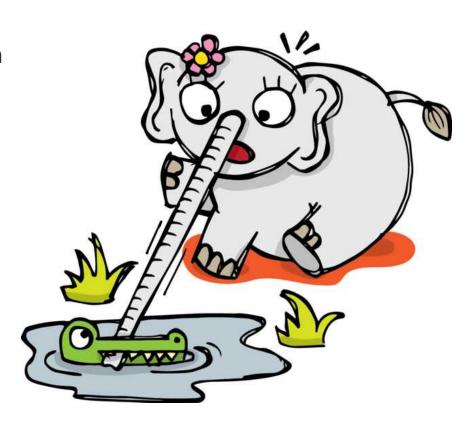




"Tap!" Pua ya mtoto wa mamba ilikuwa kunywani mwa mamba.

"Mamba atakula nyama yako leo," ilisema kunguru mjanja aliyemshawishi mtoto wa tembo kwenda mtoni. Mtoto wa tembo akakita miguu yake yenye nguvu chini, akasimama imara na akaanza kujivuta, na kujivuta.

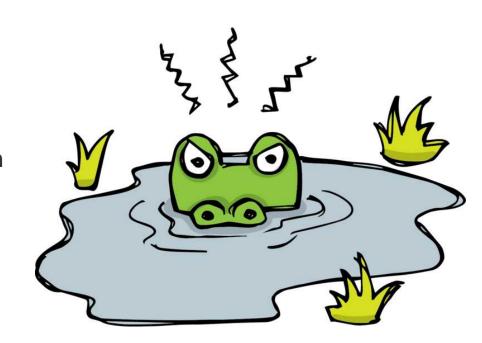
Mamba nae akaikamata vema pua ya mtoto wa tembo, hakuiachia.

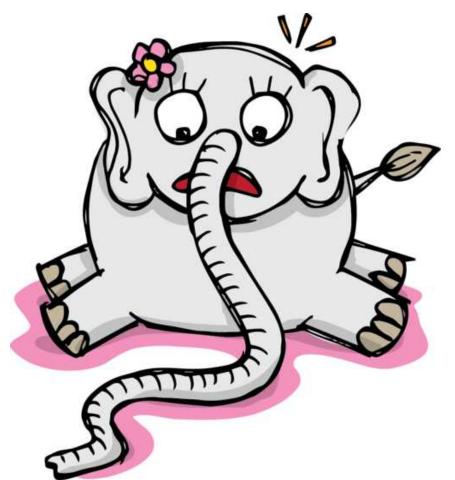




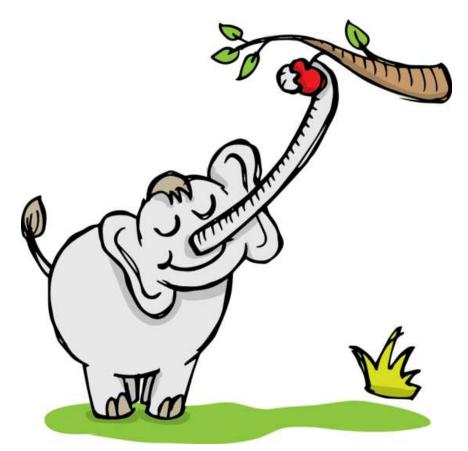
Pua ya mtoto wa tembo, ikavutika ndefu, ikarefuka zaidi, mpaka....

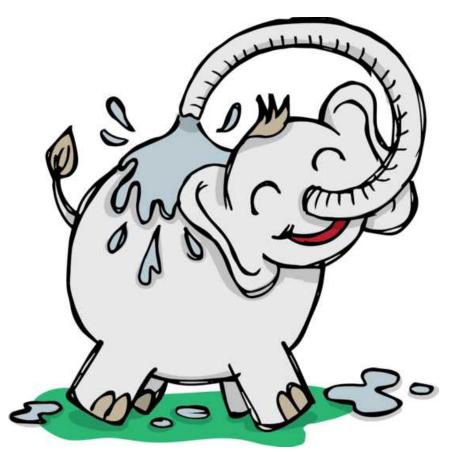
"Puu," akaanguka na kufika chini kwa mgongo. Baada ya kukosa chakula chake, mamba alizama na kutokomea kwenye maji.



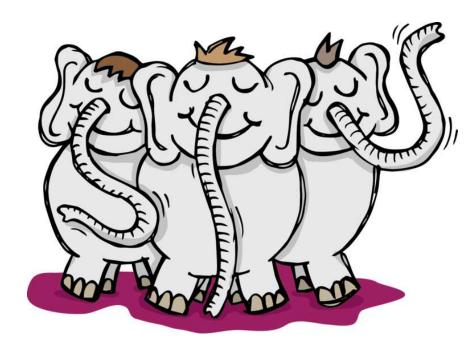


Mtoto wa tembo aliangalia pua yake. Hakuweza kuona ni wapi iliishia kwa jinsi ilivyokuwa ndefu. Ilirefuka sana na kumuwezesha kuchuma matunda yaliyokuwa kwenye matawi ya juu ya mti.





Pia, aliweza kuoga kutumia pua yake wakati wa joto. Mpaka leo, tembo wote wana mikonga mirefu na yenye faida kwao.



Mtoto Wa Tembo Mdadisi

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