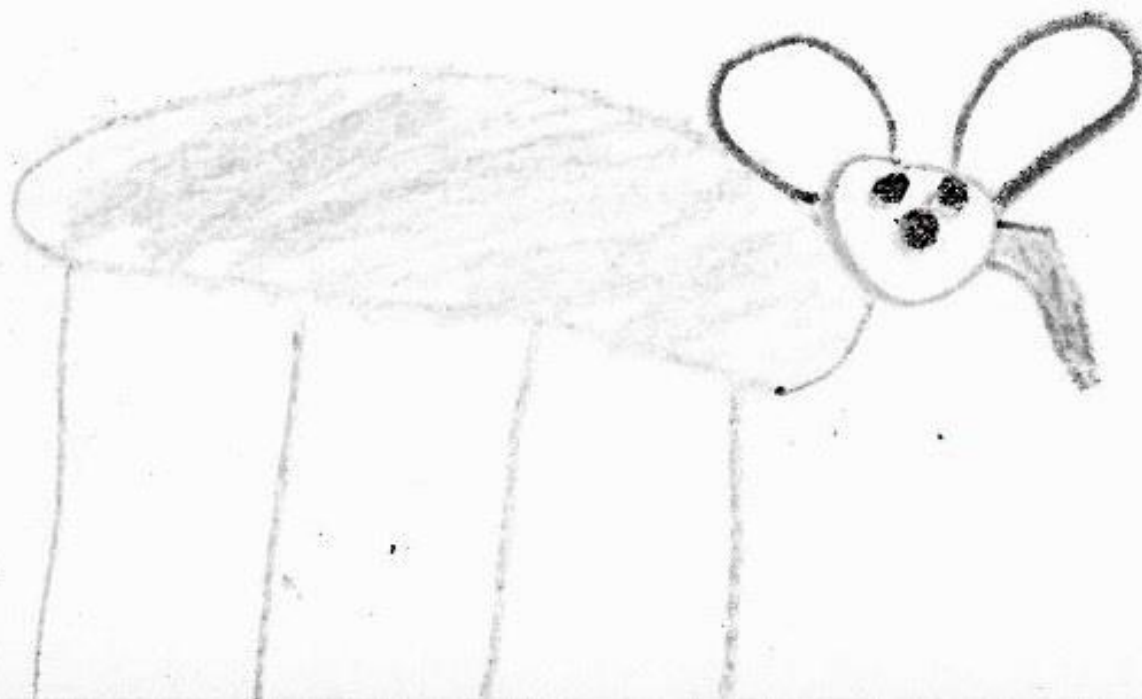
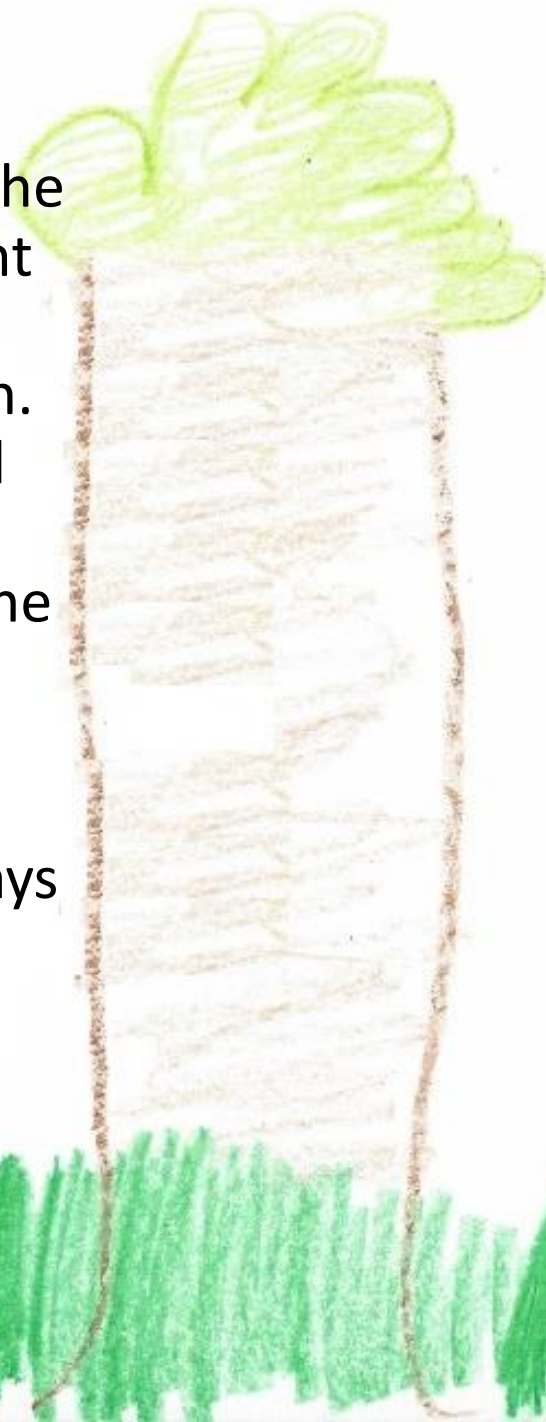


Why Elephants Have Long Trunks

By Paige Stickney



A long time ago when days were new, elephants used to have short trunks. One spring morning, Ellie the elephant woke up and went for a morning walk on the wide open grassy savannah. Ellie was hoping she would meet some of her friends along the way. The place she would end up on her walk was her grandparents' house. She was excited because her grandma always gave her candy and her grandpa always gave her 5 dollars.



On Ellie's walk, she saw Zolly, Goldie, and Lila.

"Where are you going?" asked Lila.

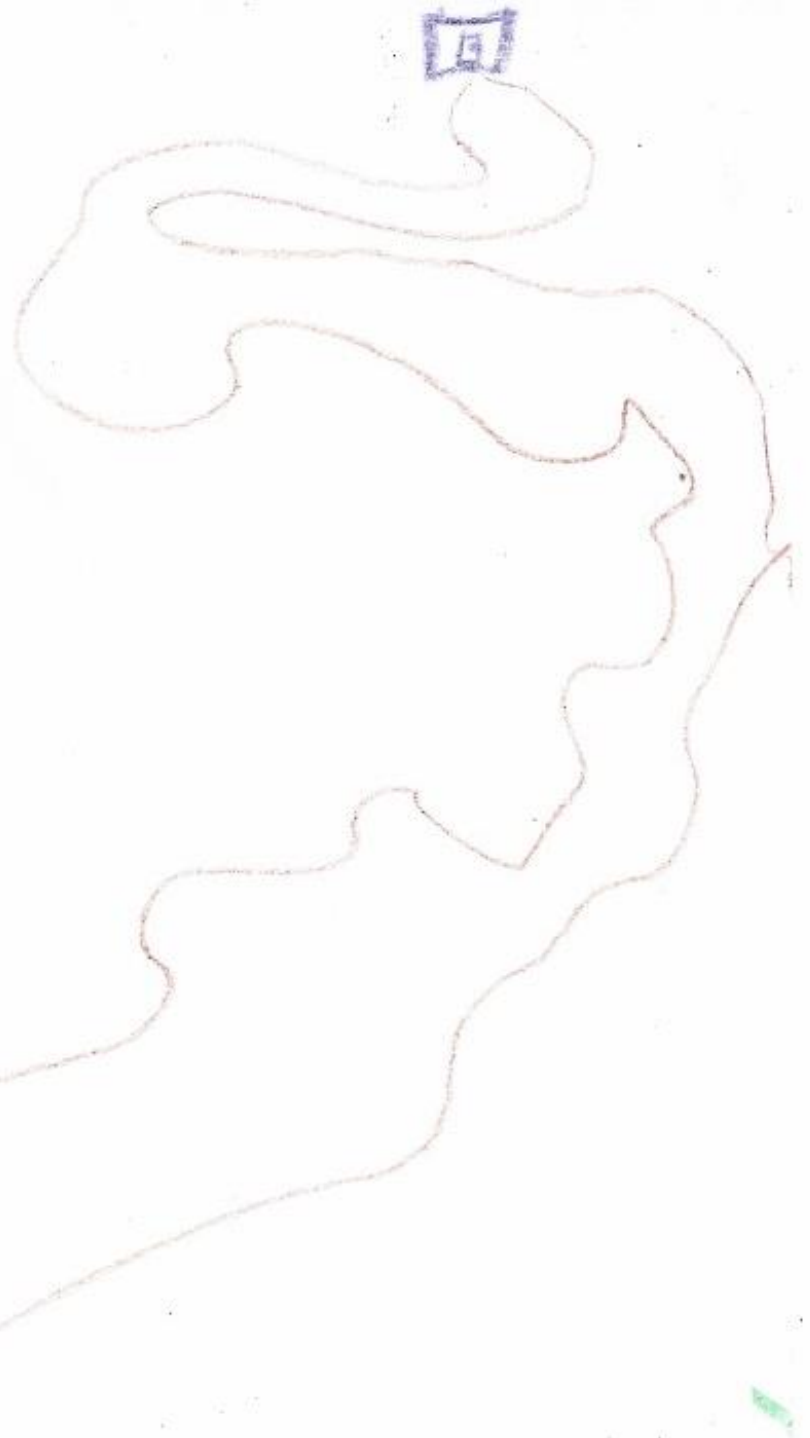
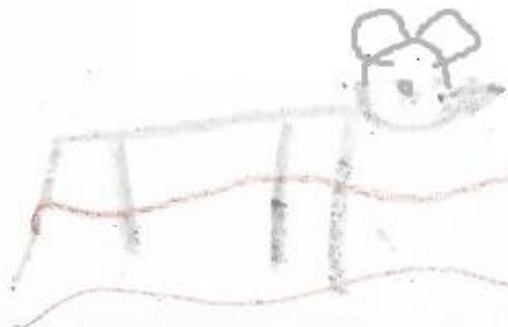
"I'm going to my grandparent's house," replied Ellie.

"You're lucky!" Zolly said really jealous.

"Do you guys want to come to my grandparents' house with me?" asked Ellie. "It is a long journey, but you could keep me company."

"YES!" they all yelled.

So all the friends walked with Ellie to her grandparents' house.



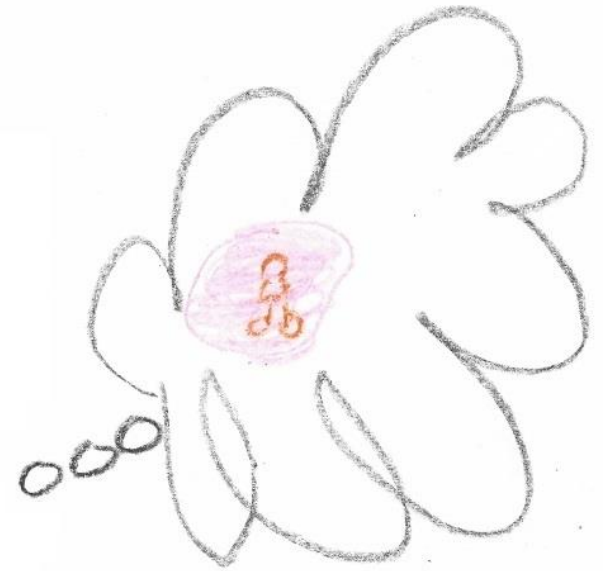
On the long journey Ellie first spoke with Zolly the zebra.

“Last summer I visited the biggest lake in Africa. It had pink water and fish that had legs,” said Ellie.

Zolly replied, “That’s funny because when I went there last summer the water was blue and the fish just had fins.”

“Well you don’t know what you’re talking about because clearly I’m right!” yelled Ellie.

“I went with my family, so you can ask any of them. You’re lucky your grandma has the sweetest grass or I would of turned around!” Zolly snorted as she walked away from Ellie.





Next Ellie walked over the path and spoke with Goldie the giraffe.

"Guess what!" Ellie yelled.

"What?" Goldie said.

"I went and climbed the tallest mountain in this part of Africa," Ellie said.

"Well, there are NO mountains in this part of Africa!" Goldie yelled. "Wait a second, Are you lying to me because I can see almost half of Africa everyday, so there!"

Ellie was thinking Oh-No I'm going to get in trouble by Goldie because she can see almost half of Africa! But Ellie decided to just act calm.

Ellie said "Well, then why did I climb the mountain if it doesn't exist?"

Goldie said, "You're lying." She just walked away.



Now that Zolly and Goldie stopped talking to Ellie, Ellie walked over to Lila the lion.

“Guess what I saw,” Ellie said.

“What?” Lila said.

“I saw a big creature with purple fur, sharp teeth and long claws. But it only comes out at night,”

“Oh really,” Lila said. “Well I think you’re lying because I go outside every night and not once have I seen one of those things,”

“Well, I’m not lying because because because,” Ellie hesitated.

“See I knew you were lying and you can’t even think of anything to say to convince me that you’re telling the truth!” Lila yelled.



Pretty soon after that, they got to Ellie's grandparents' house. The four friends had totally forgot about the lying because Ellie's grandma gave them all a lot of candy.

When the 4 friends left Ellie's grandparents they went to Ellie's house to eat lunch.

"Guess what?" Ellie said.

"What?" all the friends said together.

"I'm going to Animal World," Ellie said.

All of Ellie's friends believed her.

"Can we come?" all the friends said together.

Ellie didn't know what to say so she mumbled, "Sure".



The next day Lila, Gabbie, Goldie and Zolly got ready to go to Animal World.

“We’re ready for Animal World!” the friends shouted.

Ellie said “Actually, I lied about the trip! There was no trip no plane tickets and no way we can still go to Animal World!” Ellie said quickly.

All of Ellie’s friends felt mad. They just wanted to make she understood how they felt.



Lila came up with an idea.

They called Ellie over to Zolly's den for dinner.

When Ellie finished eating Lila said "We found the most amazing magical hole. Inside it lives a tiny blue pixie with sharp claws and big teeth. But it's too small to hurt anything large like you."

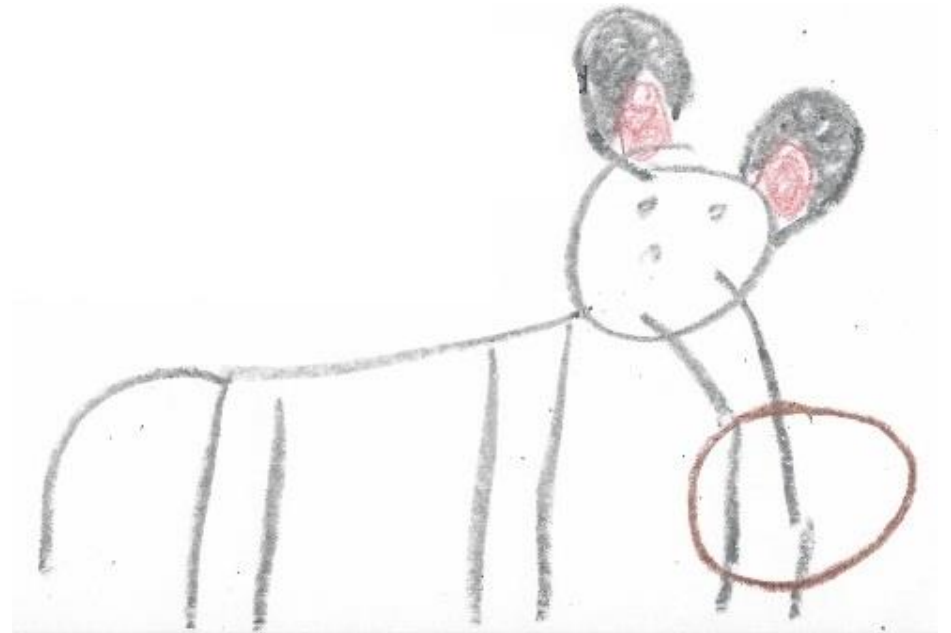
Ellie said, "I want to see the pixie."

Lila pointed to a hole. "Well here it is. Go ahead look in the hole for the pixie."

Ellie looked in the hole. "I don't see anything."

"Well you have to get closer."

Ellie wedged part of her face in the hole.



“Again there’s nothing in there,”
Ellie replied.

Lila said, “Well how does it feel to
be lied to?”

Ellie tried pulling her nose out, but
every time it just got longer.

“I will get you back for this!” Ellie
yelled as she watched her nose become
longer and longer.

Finally Ellie’s nose broke free. She
did a dance of joy.

“Next time you want to stretch the
truth just look at your nose and think
should I do it,” Lila said as she walked away.

Now every time Ellie sees her
reflection she thinks *why did I lie so much.*

