



The Elephant Gift

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In this book, elements from more than one of Nasreddin Hodja's stories have been combined to make a single story.

NASREDDIN HODJA



When we hear his name, we immediately think of a long white beard, a big turban, a flowing robe and a smiling face. Then a big smile spreads across our own faces.

He is full of witty remarks and he has something clever to say in every situation.

We laugh when we think of his stories.

Nasreddin Hodja was born almost 800 years ago in the 13th century, in what is today the city of Konya in Turkey and lived much of his life in a place called Akşehir.

WHAT WE WILL LEARN

When we read this book we will:

- Develop our reading abilities.
- Improve our vocabulary and our control of the language that we use.
- Let the text that we read come alive in our imaginations when we look at the illustrations.
- Learn how to express positive and negative emotions.
- Learn the parts of the day and how to use their names properly.
- Learn the importance of keeping your word.
- Learn about important ideas like hospitality and gift-giving.
- Learn how to look at problems from a different angle in order to find a solution.
- Learn not to be prejudiced against people and events.
- The importance of asking other people their opinions.

And last but not least, we will get to meet Nasreddin Hodja!

CONCEPTS:

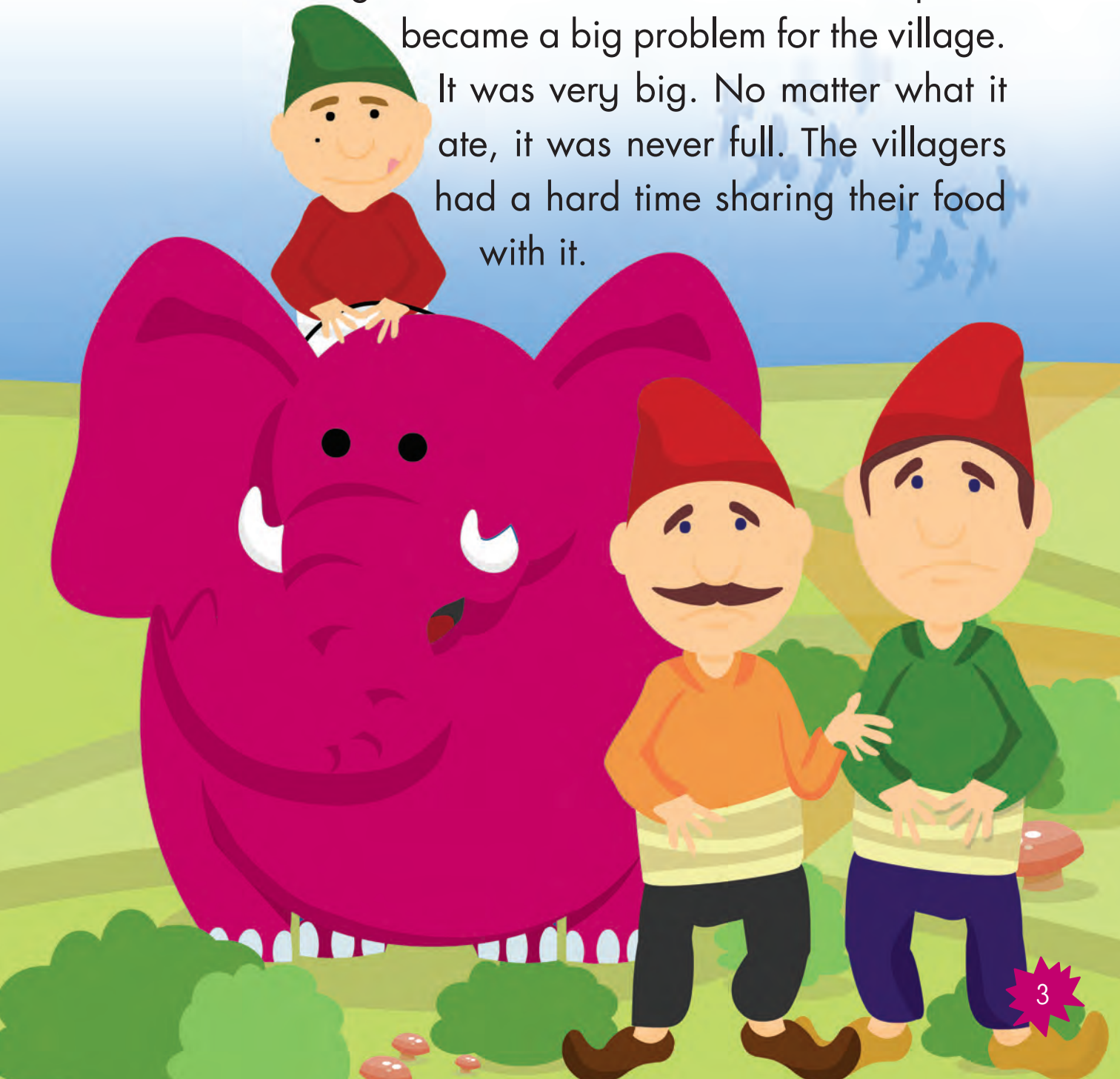
When we read this book we will learn concepts such as:

- Parts of the day (Morning, noon, evening, night)
- Mealtimes (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- numbers (1-10)
- To be tired – To rest
 - Big – Small
 - Hungry – Full
 - Young – Old
 - Front – Back
 - Early – Late

One day Tamerlane, the cruel tyrant of the age, was a guest in Nasreddin Hodja's village. The villagers took care of Tamerlane very well. Tamerlane wanted to reward them, so he gave them an elephant from his army. However in a short time, the elephant

became a big problem for the village.

It was very big. No matter what it ate, it was never full. The villagers had a hard time sharing their food with it.



The people gave half of everything they were going to eat at breakfast, lunch and dinner to the elephant. The elephant ate a lot but it still wasn't enough. It wandered onto the farm and damaged the crops, crushing the grass and the flowers. Some time passed. Finally the people were fed up with it. They all met at someone's house to put an end to this situation.



Everyone was saying something different. The host said, "Let's make a cage for the elephant." They didn't like this idea because they didn't want to put an enormous elephant in a little cage.



They looked for a solution for a long time. Finally someone had an idea,

“Dear neighbors, didn’t Tamerlane give us this elephant? Why don’t we ask him to take the elephant back?”

The other villagers liked this idea, but they were very afraid of Tamerlane.

“Okay, but how are we going to say that to Tamerlane?” They asked.



One of them said,
"Nasreddin Hodja will help us. Tamerlane loves
Nasreddin Hodja, he'll listen to him."

