
CONDENSATION OF This Is How I Grow

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Includes pages 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 24, 25, 26, 27, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 50, 51

Paperback (\$12.95) ISBN 13: 978-1-938492-08-2

Ebook (\$11.99) ISBN 13: 978-1-938492-09-9

March 2020 • 52 Pages



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**I am a pup,
a Brazilian free-tailed bat baby.**

I grow up in a dark, dark cave.

I could not see much, but I could
smell my mother. While I nursed,
she cleaned me and learned
my scent.

When I was full, she took me to the
cave ceiling to hang with the other pups.
She came back twice each day to feed me.





Now that I am four weeks old, I drop from the top of the cave, spread my wings, and fly. I practice with the other pups.



When I am six weeks old, I will not need my mother's milk anymore. I will fly through the forest, catching crunchy bugs, and I will be all grown up.

I am a calf, a blue whale baby.

I grow up on the move.

As soon as I was born, I followed my mother as she swam through the warm tropical waters.

When I got hungry, I poked her with my nose and she squirted her milk into the water for me. I drink 375 liters of milk every day to fatten up fast.



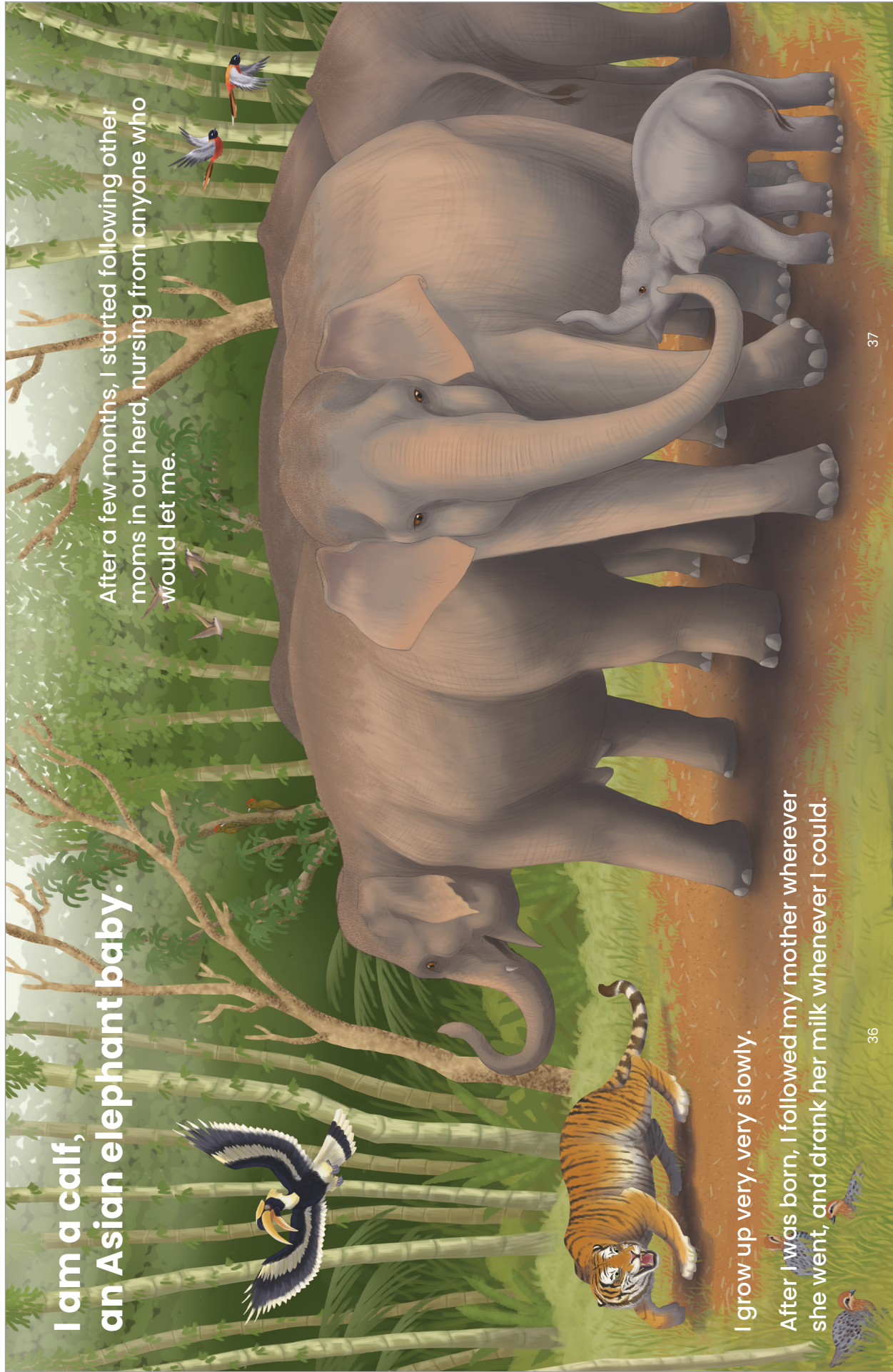
An illustration of a large blue whale and its smaller calf swimming in the deep blue ocean. The whale is on the left, and the calf is on the right, both facing right. The whale's mouth is slightly open, and the calf's mouth is wide open, showing its baleen. The background is a deep blue with some light blue and white speckles, suggesting a starry night sky or bioluminescence. There are also some small fish swimming in the background.

When I am three months old, it is time for us to travel south. I will make this long journey every year.

When we finally arrive in the cold Antarctic waters, my mother shows me how to feast on krill.

When I am two years old, I will be able to travel by myself, and I will be all grown up.

**I am a calf,
an Asian elephant baby.**



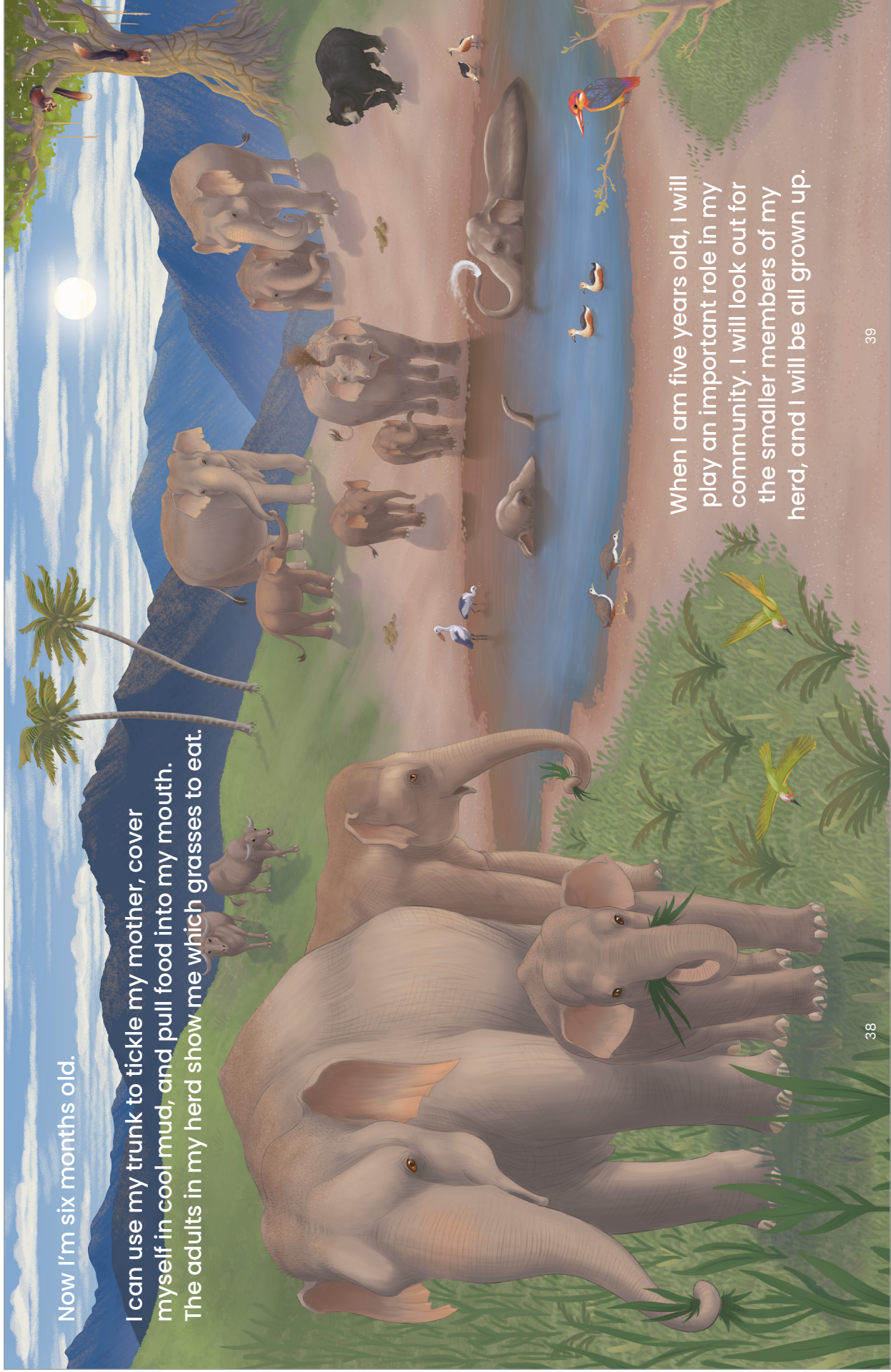
After a few months, I started following other
moms in our herd, nursing from anyone who
would let me.

I grow up very, very slowly.

After I was born, I followed my mother wherever
she went, and drank her milk whenever I could.

Now I'm six months old.

I can use my trunk to tickle my mother, cover myself in cool mud, and pull food into my mouth. The adults in my herd show me which grasses to eat.



When I am five years old, I will play an important role in my community. I will look out for the smaller members of my herd, and I will be all grown up.

This Is Where I Grow



Where do you grow?



Masai Giraffes

Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchii



"What is that baby doing?"

Giraffes drink out of big pools of water in the ground called watering holes. Because they are so tall, and have such long necks, they have to spread their front legs apart and lean their heads down to take a drink. But they have to be careful; crocodiles live in the watering hole.

Did you know that adult giraffes don't have many predators? Only calves have to worry about getting attacked by a crocodile. Even lions will only attack an adult giraffe if they are starving.

"Why is her tongue purple?"

When giraffes eat, they wrap their long tongue around a branch and strip off the leaves. The dark blue color of their tongue helps prevent sunburn. Many of the plants they eat have spikey thorns, but the giraffes' thick tongues and sticky spit keep them from getting hurt.

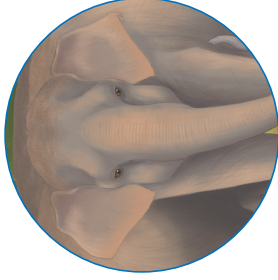


"Why are they fighting?"

Male giraffes fight each other using their long, strong necks. This behavior is called "necking." Calves will do this for fun or play, but adult giraffes take it more seriously. Necking establishes dominance and determines who gets to mate. After fighting, Masai giraffes will often make up by cuddling with one another.

Asian Elephants

Elephas maximus



"Why don't the Asian elephants have tusks?"

Only male Asian elephants have tusks, and herds are made up entirely of related female elephants and their calves. However, some of the females do have small teeth called *tushes* that look like tusks. These teeth are softer, smaller, and do not stick far out of their mouth. They may be used to strip bark off of trees to eat, but are not long enough to be used for digging, lifting, or fighting, like a male's tusks.

TG See the Teacher's Guide for an activity that demonstrates one very important way Asian elephants use their tusks.

"Is that animal going to attack the elephants?"

We usually think of bears as scary predators, but that little guy is a sloth bear, one of the smallest members of the bear family. These bears weigh less than 115 kilograms, so they wouldn't be much of a match for an Asian elephant. Sloth bears eat both meat and vegetation, but they mostly just eat termites. In fact, sloth bears are more likely to be attacked by an elephant than to attack one.



"Do elephants eat and drink through their trunk?"

Elephants use their trunks to pick up food and water, but they don't eat or drink through their trunk. Their trunk is like a combination nose and upper lip, and it's very strong and flexible. Just like people, elephants eat and drink through their mouths—but their trunks help like a hand or arm.

Baby Asian elephants suck on the tip of their trunk the same way that human babies suck on their thumb or a pacifier. It helps keep them calm and content.





EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ALL GROWN UP!

All newborn mammals—whether they have hooves, flippers, claws, or wings—rely on mother’s milk to help them grow. In order to survive, every cub, calf, and kit must eventually figure out how to find their own food. From bats learning how to fly to elephants gaining control of their trunks, animal families help their young develop the tools they need to hunt, forage, or scavenge. Open this book to explore the incredible variety of skills baby mammals must learn in order to survive and thrive.

“There is something fascinating about youngsters of all our mammal relatives. Whether you read this to your child, or they read it themselves, it will provide nicely illustrated, scientifically accurate, but easily absorbed stories about familiar animals.”

—Don E. Wilson, Curator of Mammals Emeritus,
National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

“This beautifully illustrated book allows children to explore interesting facts about the nurturing behaviors and instincts of mammals. It gives children an appreciation for the importance of nurturing while promoting scientific inquiry, mathematical challenges, and engineering practices.”

—Alma Miller, STEM Education Consultant,
Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Science Teaching,
and NSTA Coordinator for the District of Columbia



Ages 7-10 • \$12.95
Teacher's Guide available
ISBN 13: 978-1-938492-08-2
ISBN 10: 1-938492-08-0