

When the World was Young
and
All the Animals were New

Bedtime Stories for Bella



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Love from Dad

How the Elephant got his Trunk

When the world was young, and all the animals were new, the elephant had a short stubby nose, and he had to drink from the water using only his mouth. This was very difficult because the elephant is such a tall animal and he had to go down on his front knees to get close to the water to drink.

One day, a sneaky crocodile crept up on the elephant while he was drinking from the edge of a river and snapped his mouth onto the elephant's small nose.



The elephant went 'Ouch' and jumped up, but the crocodile held on tight. The elephant pulled and pulled one way while the crocodile pulled and pulled the other way and slowly the elephant's nose began to stretch longer and longer.

After quite a long time of this pushing and pulling, the crocodile got tired and let go. When the elephant recovered from this terrible fright, he saw that his nose had become quite long and was now a trunk. He used it to suck up the water from the river and squirt it into his mouth or over his back to cool off and he was so happy with his new nose.

And from that day onwards, all of the elephants decided to have trunks.

The end.

How the Giraffe got his Long Neck

When the world was young, and all the animals were new, the giraffe had a very short neck and all of the monkeys and birds used to laugh at him as he munched the not very taste leaves at the bottom of the tree.

One day, the giraffe had had enough and he decided that he would stretch up to try and reach the top of the tree. So, he got up on his tippy toes and stretched and stretched and stretched. His neck got a bit longer and suddenly the giraffe could eat some of the more tasty leaves in the middle of the tree. And then he got on his tippy topes again and stretched and stretched and stretched and before he knew it, the giraffe's neck had stretched so long that he could reach



the top of the tree. He wrapped his long purple tongue around the leaves and as he munched them, they tasted absolutely delicious.

And ever since that day, the giraffes have had long necks so that they can eat the delicious leaves at the t top of the tall trees.

The end.

How the Rhino got his Horn

Once upon a time, when the world was young and all the animals were new, the rhinos did 't have a horn on the end of their noses. They used to run around the bush like crazy creatures, and because their eyesight is not that good, they would often bash into things.

One day, a rhino was running around the bush, not looking where he was going, and he went smash into a Mahobahoba tree. The rhino when 'ouch!' Because it was such a big crash. The Mahobahoba tree is a magical tree, and when the rhino bashed into it, one of the thorns pricked the end of his nose. Magic dust swirled all around the rhino's nose and soon, a huge horn began to grow.



The horn was so big and so strong that the rhino could crash into anything without getting hurt. And ever since that day, all of the rhinos search for the magical Mahobahoba tree so that they can get pricked by one of its thorns and grow a big strong horn on the end of their nose

The end.

How the snake lost its legs

Once upon a time when the world was young and all the animals were new, the snake had lots of strong legs. He was also a very hungry animal and liked to gobble up anything that he could find. One day, he came across a small lizard, his favorite treat. He followed it across the bush until the tiny lizard disappeared down a small hole. The snake dived in after it, but found that he was too big to fit down the narrow hole.



So, he decided to take his legs off one at a time, and left them outside the hole to collect later. The snake dashed down the hole and it was very dark inside. The hole twisted and turned and joined all sorts of other holes. Soon the snake was completely lost and the lizard was nowhere to be seen.

After hours of trying to find his way, he finally saw a little ray of light, which he made his way towards. It led to the surface and finally, he exited the hole and was back in the bush. He had come out of a completely different hole to the one he had jumped into, and his legs were nowhere to be found. Ever since that day, the snake slithers around the bush, looking for his misplaced legs, wishing that he could walk again.

The end.

How the Chicken became the Ostrich

Once upon a time when the world was young and all the animals were new, there was a little chicken, who was a bit different from all the other chickens. His name was Ostrich. Ostrich wanted to be the biggest bird in the bush, so one day, he went to the King Chicken, who was a magic chicken, and asked to be bigger than all of the other birds in the bushveld. He wanted to be even bigger than a horse!



The magic chicken said he could cast a spell over Ostrich to make him big, but he would never be able to fly again. Ostrich was fine with that because he said that if he was big, he would be able to run super fast.

The magic chicken clucked and squawked and fluffed his feathers, and magic began to spark all over Ostrich. He began to grow bigger and bigger. His legs grew longer and longer, his neck stretched longer and longer, but his wings only grew a little bit. Soon, Ostrich looked nothing like a chicken, and he was enormous. His long legs made him run super fast and he was so proud of what he had become that soon a whole lot of other chickens decided to become Ostriches as well.

The end.

How the Hippo got to be so Big

Once upon a time when the world was young and all the animals were new, the hippo was a tiny little animal. He was so small, in fact, that the hippo could fit on the end of an elephant's tusk.

The hippo hated being small, so one day he went to the king of the animals, the lion, to find out what could be done. The lion said that if he swam to the centre of the huge Lake Kariba and ate the magic waterlilies that he would find there, the hippo would become very big.



So, the hippo ran as fast as his little legs would carry him to the edge of Kariba. He was exhausted when he got there and didn't think that his little legs would be able to swim all the way to the middle of the dam.

So, he found a crocodile and they made a deal. The sneaky crocodile wanted to gobble the hippo up, but the hippo said, you can eat me only once I have eaten the waterlily in the middle of the lake. They shook hands on their agreement and then the hippo hopped on the crocodile's back and together they swam to the middle of the lake.

When they got there, the hippo munched as much of the magic waterlilies as he could, and he got bigger and bigger. Eventually the hippo was so big that he was one of the largest animals in the bushveld! He was even bigger than the sneaky crocodile! When the crocodile saw this, he got scared, and thought he wouldn't even try and eat something that big.

And since that day, the hippos have stayed in the middle of big dams, eating the waterlilies because if they didn't, they would get smaller and the crocodile would try to gobble them up.

The end.

How the Zebra got its Stripes

Once upon a time, when the world was young and all the animals were new, all of the zebras were bright white and didn't have any stripes at all. Zebras were also very naughty creatures, and often at night they would raid the farmer's delicious vegetable patch that was filled with delicious carrots, tomatoes and lettuce.



The farmer used to get so angry about the naughty zebras eating his vegetables that he decided to teach them all a lesson. So, one night, he put a fence up around his vegetable garden and painted it black, hoping that the zebras would bash into it because they wouldn't be able to see the fence at night.

As night fell, the zebras tried to steal the vegetables, and they went crash into the fence. The wet paint left long stripes down their beautiful white bodies.

Ever since that day, the zebras have had black stripes over their white fur to remind them about their lesson of not stealing the farmer's vegetables!

The end

Why the Warthog Runs with his Tail in the Air

Once upon a time when the world was young, and all the animals were new, the warthogs used to run around the bushveld getting absolutely lost. You see, warthogs are very small animals, and when they were running in the long grass, they would often lose sight of each other and get lost.

So, the King Warthog called a meeting to decide what could be done. All the warthogs came together and offered suggestions, but most of them were very silly ideas. The smallest warthog of all put his hoof into the air and offered his suggestion. The other warthogs laughed at him saying, "You are so small, how would you know what do do?" But the King Warthog said, "Let him speak!"



The little warthog said, "Why not put your tail in the air when you are running and that way we can follow each other's tails?" The King Warthog thought that this was a brilliant idea and decided to give it a try. They all ran around sticking their tails up, and it worked; the warthogs didn't get lost any more just by following their tails. And since that day, all of the warthogs run around the bushveld with their tails in the air looking very silly, but not getting lost.

The end

