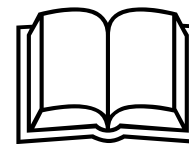


Reading List: **Elephants**



The following is a list of books that introduce young readers to the natural lives of wild elephants, including their behavior, habitat, and families. The books were selected as an answer to the unnatural and unrealistic images of “happy” circus or zoo elephants that are so prevalent in children’s books.

For Preschoolers

I Am a Little Elephant by François Crozat (Barron’s Educational Series, Inc., 1993)

A beautifully illustrated book told from the point of view of a baby elephant with his mother in their African homeland. Fiction.

I Love My Mama by Peter Kavanagh, illustrated by Jane Chapman (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002)

Gorgeous large images of elephants enjoying a day in the wild with narrative told from a baby elephant’s point of view. Emphasis is on the protective and loving bond between mother and baby. Fiction.

Splash! by Flora McDonnell (Candlewick Press, 1999)

Large drawings and simple text about a baby Asian elephant and other animals enjoying water on a very hot day. A fun book. Fiction.

What’s It Like to Be a Baby Elephant? by Honor Head, illustrated by Matthew Nicholas (Millbrook Press, 1998)

Describes the everyday life and behavior of a young elephant, comparing elephants to children and asking the reader to put him- or herself in the place of the elephant. Includes both drawings and photographs. Nonfiction.

For Children Aged 4 to 8

Bashi, Elephant Baby by Theresa Radcliffe, illustrated by John Butler (Puffin, 2001)

A heartwarming presentation of a newborn elephant’s first day and the care given to him by his mother and herd. Realistic illustrations. Fiction.

Elephants (in the Wild) by Claire Robinson (Heinemann, 2001)

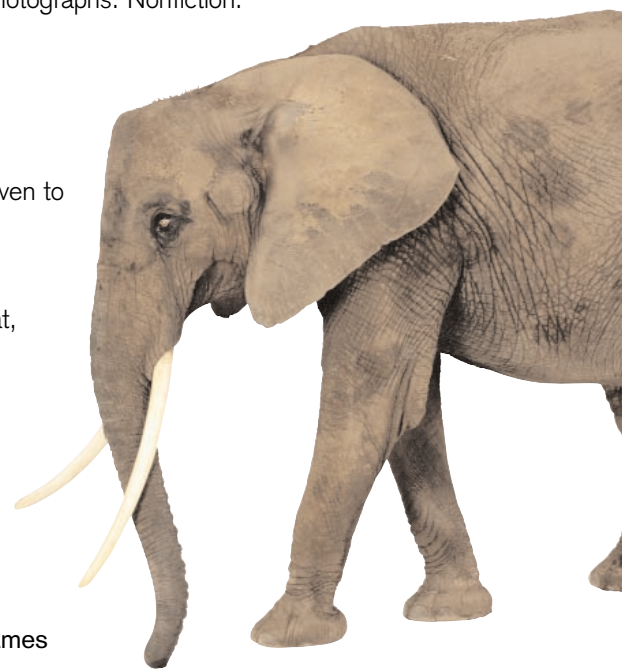
Describes an elephant family’s physical characteristics, natural behavior, habitat, and daily activities. Photos accompany the text. Nonfiction.

Little Big Ears: The Story of Ely by Cynthia Moss and Martyn Colbeck, photographer (Simon & Schuster, Juvenile, 1997)

This engaging true story of the first year of life of a physically challenged African elephant, Ely, born in Amboseli National Park in Kenya, documents his survival against all odds, with his herd’s attentive assistance. Amazing photos. Nonfiction.

Little Bull: Growing Up in Africa’s Elephant Kingdom by Ellen Foley James (Sterling Publishing, 1998)

Excellent narrative and photos present the detailed story of a young elephant’s life and survival in the wilds of Africa. Companion volume to *Africa’s Elephant Kingdom* (Discovery Channel Pictures). Nonfiction.



Little Elephant's Walk by Adrienne Kennaway (Harper Collins Juvenile Books, 1992)

A picture book of the wildlife that Little Elephant and his mother encounter as they roam the African plains and forests. Beautiful illustrations and spare text. Fiction.

Little Elephant Thunderfoot by Sally Grindley, illustrated by John Butler (Peachtree Publishers, 1999)

This story of a baby elephant's life and relationship with his grandmother, the herd's matriarch, teaches readers to care about the conservation and protection of elephants with a moving account of life on the African savannah. Fiction.

Little Gray One by Jan Wahl, illustrated by Frane Lessac (William Morrow & Co., 1993)

The story of a little elephant's relationship with his reassuring mother and the lessons that she teaches him—such as where the best plums are and how to take a mud bath. Lush folk-art-style drawings complement the text. Fiction.

For Children Aged 9 to 12

The Elephant Book by Ian Redmond (Candlewick Press, 2001)

A factual account of elephants' lives and the need for conservation, written by a biologist who is committed to stopping poaching and the ivory trade. Contains breathtaking detailed photos of African elephants, their behavior, and their habitat. Nonfiction.

Elephant Woman: Cynthia Moss Explores the World of Elephants by Laurence Pringle and Cynthia Moss, contributor (Atheneum, 1997)

Story of Cynthia Moss' 25 years studying elephant families in Kenya. Describes elephant life and society from birth to adulthood as well as current conservation efforts. Nonfiction.

Mumu by Hilda Perera (Editorial Bruno, 1998)

The story of Mumu, an African elephant, who learns that humans hunt and kill elephants for their tusks, make them do heavy labor, and confine them in the circus. Believing that elephants have the right to live free, Mumu tries to help his fellows. Written by a Nobel nominee, the book appeals to children's sense of justice and fair play. Contains a section of activities for the reader. Fiction, in Spanish.

Saving Lilly by Peg Kehret (Pocket Star, 2001)

After doing a research project, Erin and David learn about the horrible lives led by animals forced to perform in the circus. When their teacher plans to take the class to the circus, Erin and David refuse to go and instead help raise funds to send one of the elephants to a sanctuary, where she can live the remainder of her life free of shackles and beatings. Fiction.

Free From TeachKind

"An Elephant's Life" comic book is the perfect accompaniment to any lesson on respecting animals. This is the happy story of an elephant rescued from circus shackles. This touching tale compares the dismal existence of captive elephants to the rich lives of elephants in their natural habitat, where they live in close-knit family units. Perfect for all ages. Contact TeachKind for classroom quantities.