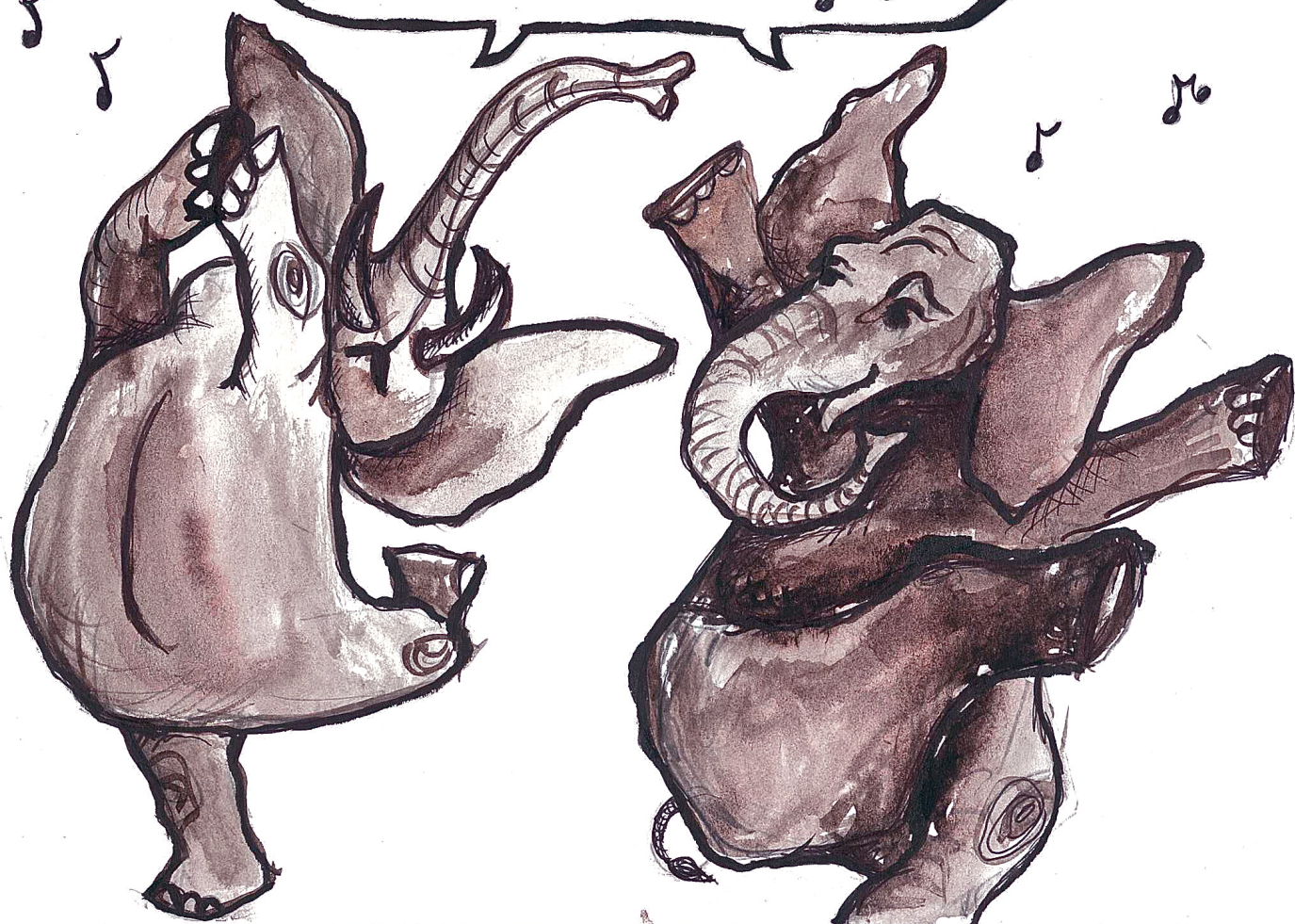


♪ We are the elephants big and strong, ♪
our story on the earth is real long ♪
and messing with our home is ♪
just plain wrong! ♪



Stageplay

Elephant Power

Grades 5-8

By

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Use of fantasy as elephants problem solve on how they may keep developers from taking their land.

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Characters

Elephants Group A (2-6)

Elephants Group B (2-6)

Hotel Developers Group A (1-4)

Hotel Developers Group B (1-4)

Ganesh (1-6)

ACT I

(Scene opens with developers looking over the land. elephants are off to the side with hands on ears listening and reacting to conversation. Hotel developers walk center stage)

HOTEL DEVELOPERS Group A

This looks like a good spot. There is plenty of room for a hotel here.

HOTEL DEVELOPERS Group B

Yes this is a great clearing. The view will be great.

(elephants react by shaking their heads)

HOTEL DEVELOPERS GROUP A

That's right and you know what our motto is!

HOTEL DEVELOPERS A & B

Better view, better money!

(all high five as they say it)

(elephants react by shaking their heads sadly)

HOTEL DEVELOPERS GROUP A

Let's go find our construction crew and give them the plans to start building. It's strange that there is this clearing that almost looks like a road.

(Developers shrug leave stage)

(Elephants lumber on center stage)

Elephants Group A & B

Oh great more developers building in our paths.

ELEPHANTS GROUP A

Don't they know that we need elbow room to live. I mean really! How can they miss us? Duh!

ELEPHANTS GROUP B

Well your sarcasm isn't helping. We need a plan.

Elephants Group A

Well genius what's your idea? A stampede? I'm not going to get all out of breath and get shoved around.

Elephants Group B

I know! We can meditate!

Elephants Group A

Yeh, well peace and love to you. I'm glad you'll find inner peace but that is not going to help the reality of our space problem. I'm just going to stand here being my big self until you come up with a REAL idea.

Elephants Group B

Meditating can help! We can look back to all of the rich culture in India and and see if we can find an ancient god or goddess to help us.

Elephants Group A

Seriously? Is that all you got? Let's eat.

Elephants Group B

Let's see I thought I remembered something about an elephant God. What was the name? Greg? Gary? Gerry? Okay let's meditate and see if it comes to us.
(all" hmmmmm" or Ohm)

ACT II

(Ganesh group runs on stage dressed in silly clothes with feathers, hats, carrying wands, silly wigs, etc)

Ganesh

Ganesh! We're Ganesh! Enough with the meditation.

Elephants A & B

Whoa! What the heck?

Ganesh

We've been waiting years for someone to wish us into reality. Watch we've updated our image!

Ganesh:

(singing in rap style)

Ganesh is Fresh, Ganesh is fresh.

We may be ancient by our message is fresh.

Ganesh is fresh, Ganesh is Fresh.

We may be ancient but our message is fresh.

ELEPHANTS GROUP B

I told you there was an ancient elephant god!

Elephant A

How are they going to help us? By doing bad rap?

Ganesh

Hey!

ELEPHANTS GROUP A

Okay Ganesh this is our problem. We need room to move from place to place so that we can eat and drink.

ELEPHANTS GROUP B

We have been walking down this path for years and years. Our elephant ancestors all walked down this road.

Elephants A

We're smart and have good memories. We know this is the best path to the food that will accommodate our size.

Elephants B

If the developers build a resort here we will lose the path that has been used for hundreds of years by our elephant ancestors.

Elephants A

Any ideas Ganesh?

Ganesh

Why don't you just tell them what the problem is?

Elephants Group A & B

Ah..because we're elephants.

Ganesh

Oh right, I forgot that people can't hear animals anymore.

Elephants Group A & B

(looking at each other)

You mean people used to be able to hear us?

Ganesh

Yes, before everyone got so busy and distracted with "progress".

(thinking & pacing)

What to do? What to do?

Ganesh

I have it! Of course it is right in front of me!

Elephants group A & B

What is?

Ganesh

Look at me!

Elephants A & B

We can't help but see you.

Elephant A

No offense, but you do look a bit umm...eccentric.

Ganesh

I know. I know. But I look this way for a reason.

Elephant Group A

Okay I'll bite. Why do you look so.. odd..umm - I mean eccentric- umm I mean exciting! Why do you look so exciting?

Ganesh

Because I am a symbol.

Elephants group A & B

A symbol? For what?

Ganesh

I am a symbol to help people remove obstacles. I have been used in Hindu ceremonies for centuries whenever there is an obstacle to overcome. My large head just like yours symbolizes wisdom, understanding, and a discriminating intellect that one must possess to attain perfection in life.

Our large ears signify that a perfect person is the one who possesses a great capacity to listen to others. An elephant's trunk can uproot a tree and yet lift a needle off the ground. Likewise, the human mind must be strong, yet delicate.

The elephant eyes allow them to perceive objects to be bigger than what they really are. Thus, the elephant eyes symbolize the idea that even if an individual gets "bigger and bigger" in wealth and wisdom, he should perceive others to be bigger than himself; that is, surrender one's pride and attain humility.

A mouse sitting near the feet of Ganesha indicates that a perfect person is one who can live in the world without being consumed by worldly temptations that may not be good for the world as a whole.

Elephant Group A

You mean like the developers changing our ancestral home so that they can make money.

Ganesh

Exactly!

Elephant group B

You still haven't told us what we can do to stop them from building in our path.

Ganesh

We need to send a clear message.

Elephant Group A

We already told you. We're elephants! We can't send a message.

Ganesh

Now that is where I can help! I might be ancient but I still have some power. I can do a bit magic so that they can hear your message.

(Ganesh starts doing silly cliché magic abra cadabra etc silly)

Elephants A & B

Cool!

Ganesh

(takes an exaggerated bow)

Well thank you, but back to business. One thing you are right about is that it is 2012 so your message has to be current and fresh, snappy, upbeat, like a great Broadway musical.

Wait a minute I was working on some new lyrics..where are they..

(Ganesh is looking through his lyrics while Elephants Group A & B confer)

Elephant Group B

Well I guess it's worth a try.

Elephant Group A

Better than sitting around meditating until they push us out of our homes.

Elephant Group B

Okay let's think.

(all think)

ACT III

Elephant Group A

How about this for rap:

We're the elephants we're big and strong

Don't mess with us cuz our trunks are long!

Elephant Group B

Well that's nice but we don't want to threaten them.

We want them to understand the logic of not messing with our homes.

Elephant Group A

(one of the elephants has been writing and says)

Okay let's how about this.

.(passes out paper..meanwhile Ganesh ushers the developers in as they were asleep..they rub their eyes and wake up to the elephant scene)

Now clap and move as you say it..on rhythm..5..6..7..8.

-We're the elephants we're big and strong

Our story on this earth is real long

And messing with our home is just plain wrong

*-We're the elephants we're big and strong
So give us a chance to carry on our song
And know that taking our land is just plain wrong.
So do the right thing and you'll have no worry
Ganesh will point you in the right way so hurry*

Developers A

Did we just see elephants sing and dance?

Developers B

Yeh and they were kind of good at it.

Developers A

Maybe we have sun stroke.

Developers B

Maybe we've become enlightened.

Developers A

Maybe it's dream.

Developers B

Maybe it's a message

Developers A

Maybe we shouldn't mess with singing and dancing elephants. Let's get out of here!

Ganesh & Elephants

*Ganesh is Fresh, Ganesh is fresh.
We may be ancient by our message is fresh.
Ganesh is fresh, Ganesh is Fresh.
We may be ancient but our message is fresh*