

The Tale of the Disappearing Elephants  
By Mrs. Rogic's and Ms. Miller's Classes

A quilt tells a story. The story of this quilt is.....

Once, there lived a peaceful family of elephants. They spent their days eating, roaming the savannahs of South Africa, and caring for their babies. Until, tragedy struck. Late one starry night, as they walked through the bushes they heard a strange, crackling noise and discovered their worst nightmare. Just beyond the bushes was a poacher. He held a gun and stared straight into the eyes of the elephants. He wanted the elephant's tusks. He fired his rifle and many elephant mothers and fathers fell to the grounds while their babies ran off in fear. The babies were not important to the poachers because they had no tusks, but they knew that one day they would, and the ruthless poachers would come back for them. They needed a way to stay safe.

The baby elephants missed their parents so much, but luckily they had many friends near by. Just then, a light blue bird flew down, landing on one of the baby elephant's ears. The bird whispered softly into the orphan's ear. "It's going to be alright. My friends and I will help you and the rest of the elephants stay safe. No one will ever take your tusks again."

The bird called a special meeting with the elephant's other friends, Frog and Turtle. At the meeting, Frog, Turtle, and Bird came up with a plan they knew would keep the elephants safe. Each of them would have a job to do. Bird, who was an excellent pilot, with extraordinary vision, would watch from above and send a message to Frog waiting below. Frog, a world-renowned croaker, would send out a loud croak to warn the elephants when the poachers were approaching. Turtle, a master at hiding, would help them find a safe shelter.

Before long, the baby elephants grew long, thick, sharp ivory tusks. Because their tusks were so brilliant, the poachers immediately spotted them and decided to take action yet again. They waited until night and came armed with their weapons.

Bird, who was always circling above, noticed the poachers right away and sent out a "caw-caw" warning to Frog. Frog replied by sending out a most tremendous "CROAK....CROAK....CROAK!" The elephants heard the croak and without delay went to see turtle who guided them to a secret shelter below a banyan tree. Surprised and frustrated the poachers thought that the elephants must have developed magical powers and turned invisible. They decided there was no point in trying to catch them ever again.

From that day forward, thanks to Bird, Frog, and Turtle, all the elephants of South Africa were safe from the evil poachers and they lived happily ever after. Each time Bird flew over the elephants, he dropped seeds in the tracks of the elephants that had passed. From the seeds sprouted beautiful orange, blue, and pink flowers in memory of those elephants whose lives were cut short by the horrors of poaching.