



Baby Elephant's Trunk

Level B / 36 words / fiction

High frequency words:

can, I, my, with

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Have you ever seen an elephant? What can elephants do with their trunks? Where do elephants live? What do they eat?"

Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss what is happening in each picture.
- Find the known word *can*.
- Help the children find the phrase *with my trunk*.

Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
- While they're reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.
- Make sure the children can match (with their finger) or track (with their eyes) each word of the text.

After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.
- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "What can Baby Elephant do with his trunk?" Have them read the pages that support their answer.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "How is an elephant's trunk like (or unlike) your hand?"

Word work

- Have students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Have the children write the word *can*. Then write rhyming words *man* and *pan*. Ask the children to think of more words that rhyme with *can*. Write the rhyming words. Notice the rhyming words have the same middle and ending letters as the word *can*.

Rereading for fluency

- Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner. Use this opportunity to listen and prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

Writing activity

- Write the word *trunk* on the board. Have the children write what an elephant can do with its trunk. Have the students write and fill in this sentence: "He *can* ____ *with his trunk*." Then have the students draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written. Encourage attempts to spell words correctly.

FUN FACT

An elephant's trunk has no bones in it.
It is made of many different muscles.
Elephants hug by twisting their trunks together.

Teaching Points: Using meaning to connect pictures to text; Matching words with their fingers, one to one; Practicing rhyming words that end with *-an*; The concept of how an elephant eats.