

Helping Friends

There was a big zoo in Udayapuram. Ramanna was the zookeeper there. He fed the animals. He cleaned their sheds and cages. But, the animals did not like him because he would always tease them.



"Hey giraffe, look at you - long legs, long neck. You can never get into a bus or car, can you?"

"I can eat fresh leaves from the top of trees."

Ramanna laughed. The giraffe felt very bad.



"When will you learn to walk, my dear monkey?"

Or, will you be climbing and jumping all your life?

"I can climb tall trees. I can pluck and eat tasty fruits, Ramanna."

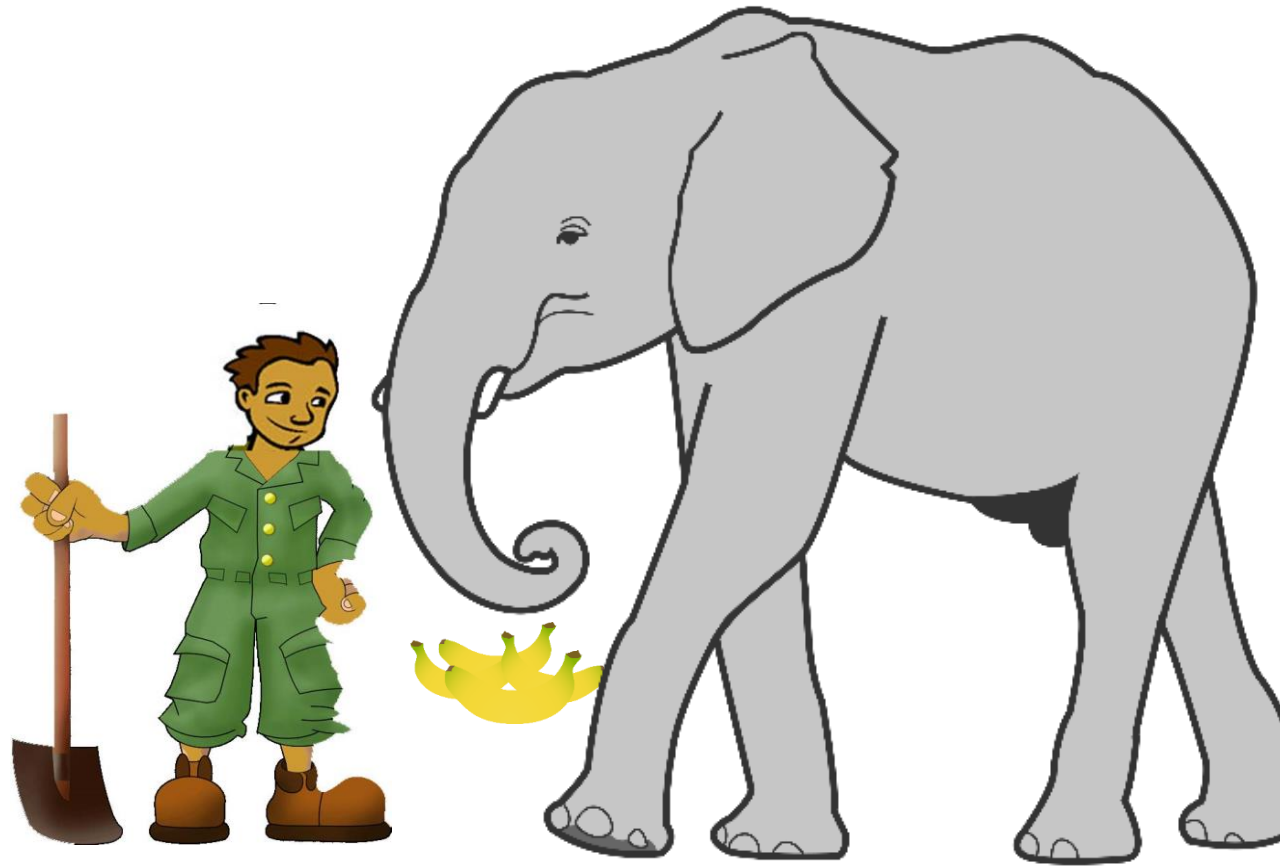
Ramanna laughed. The monkey felt very bad.



"Hey fatty, here's your breakfast.
I'm not giving you anymore food
today."

"Ramanna, I am not fat. I am big. I
am strong. Please give me some more
food."

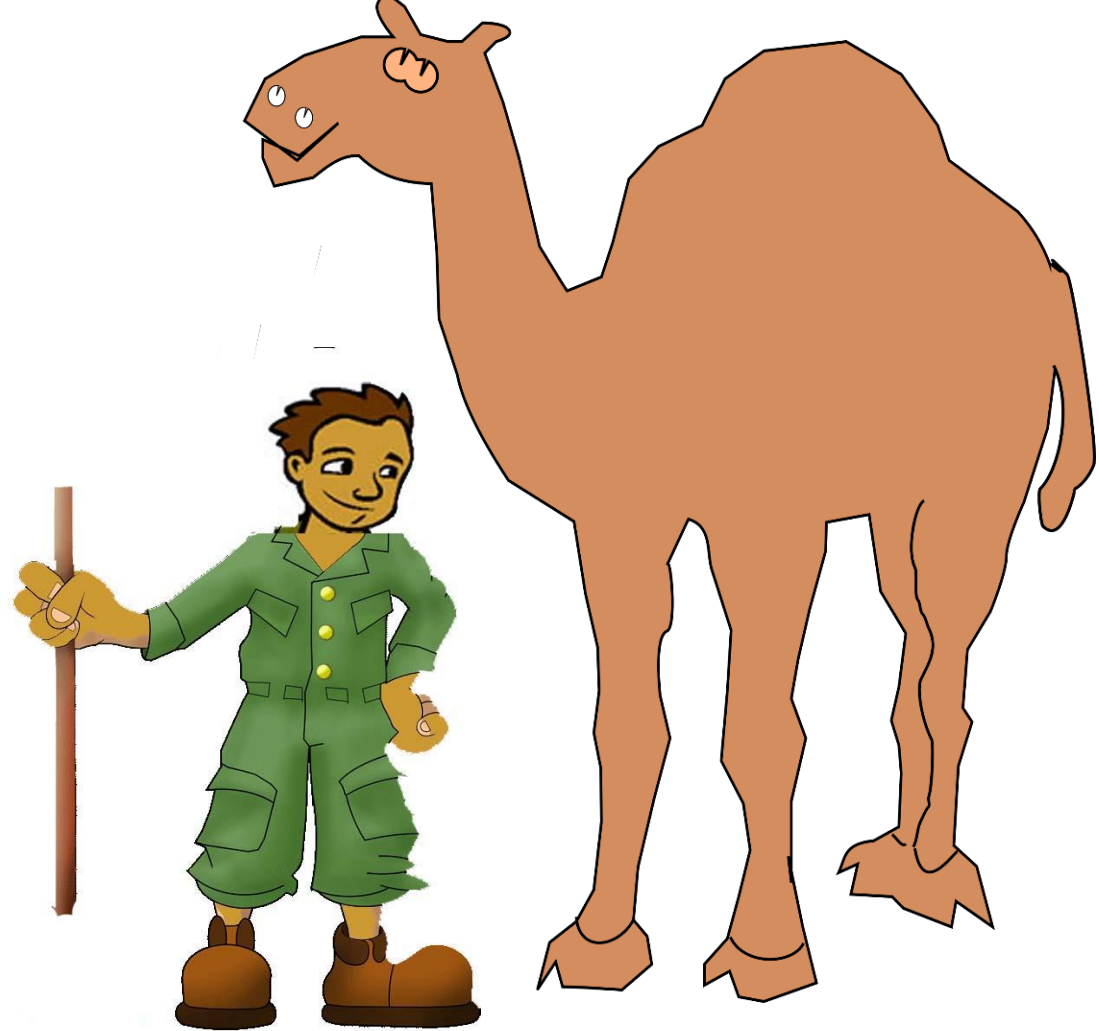
Ramanna laughed. The elephant felt
very bad.



"What is that bump on your back? You look so funny with that hump and bump."

"But I can store water for many days in my hump."

Ramanna laughed. The camel felt very bad.

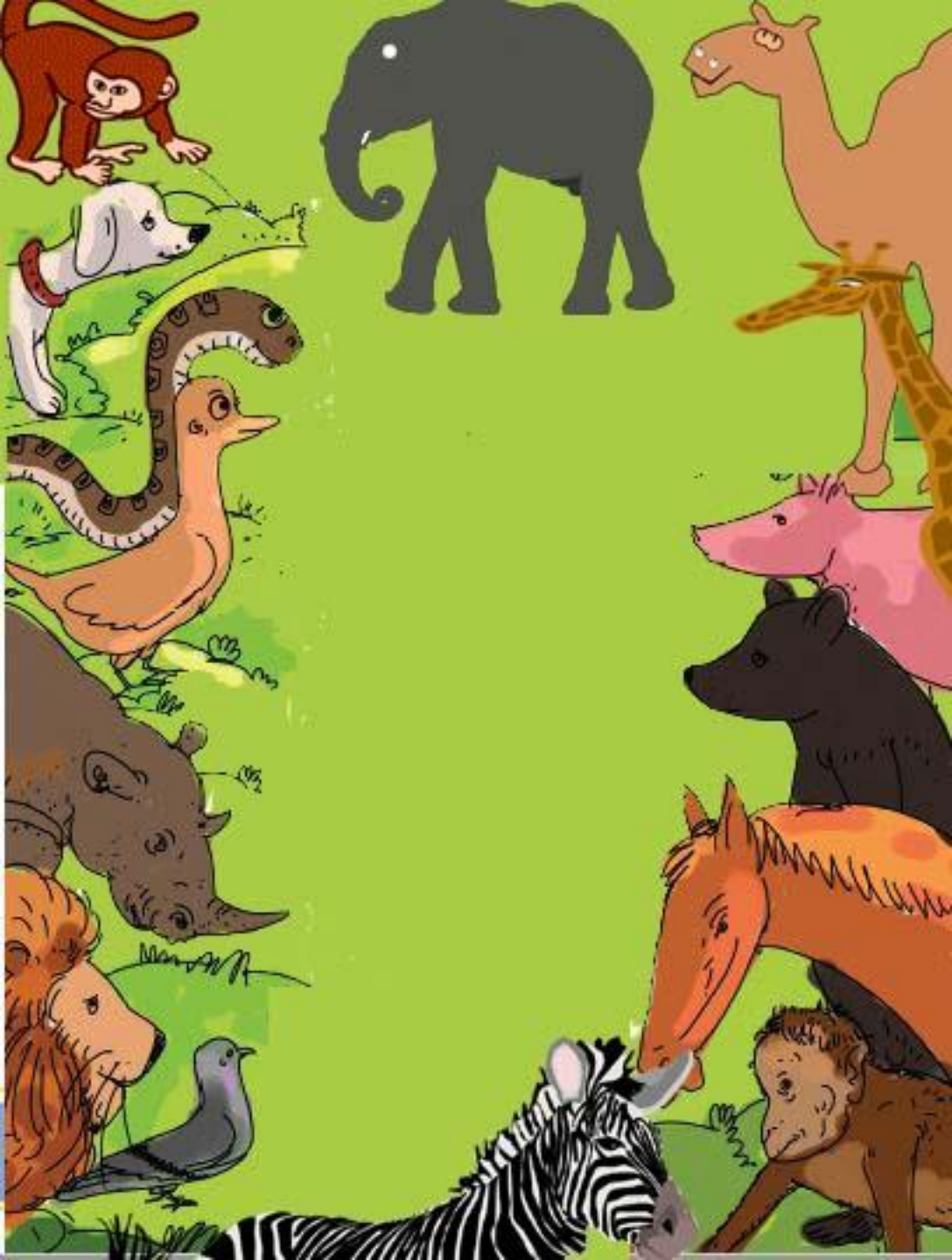


Ramanna teased all the animals - the giraffe, the monkey, the elephant and the camel. None of the animals liked him.

One day, it rained heavily in Udayapuram. There were strong winds.

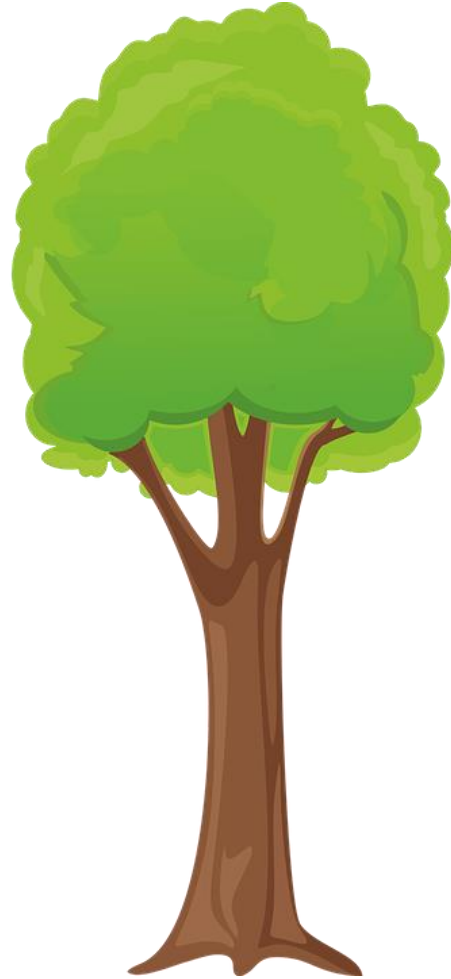
"Thud!!!" A huge tree fell on Ramanna's house. The house was completely destroyed. Ramanna felt very sad. He sat and cried.



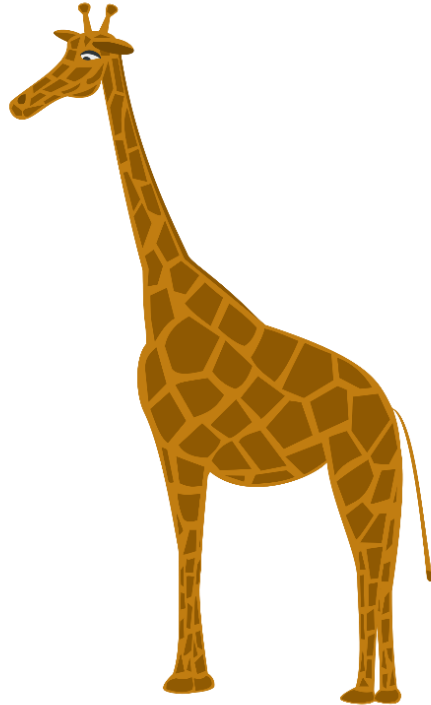


The next day, all the animals in the zoo gathered at the ground. They decided to help Ramanna.

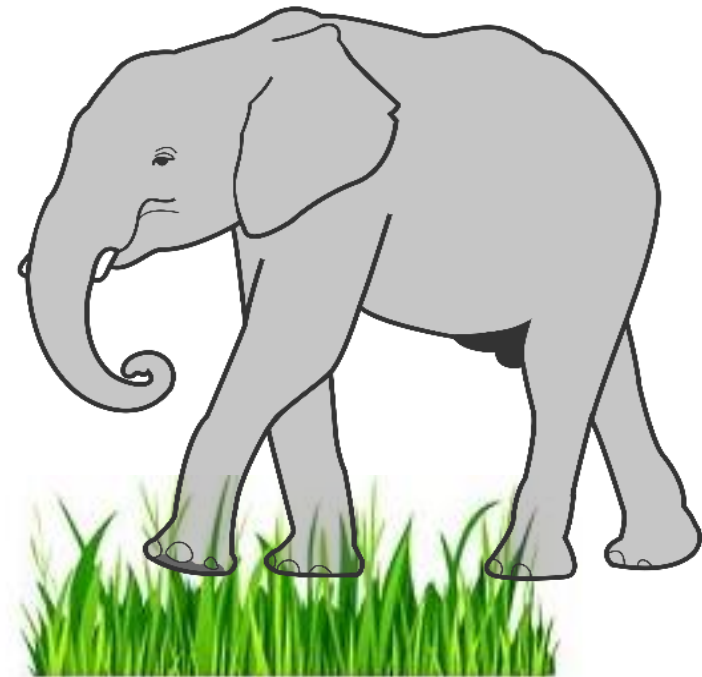
"Let's build a new house for Ramanna".



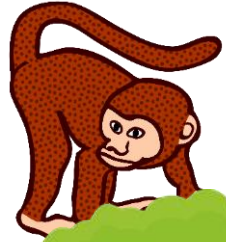
"I can bring leaves
from the top of
trees."



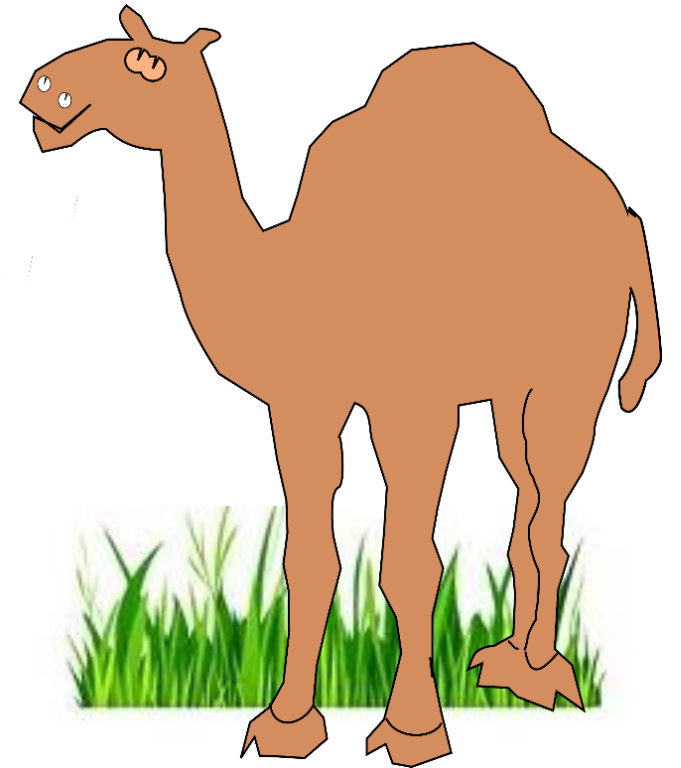
"I can bring logs."



"I can bring sticks from trees,"



"I can carry hay on my back."



All day, they worked hard. In the evening, a beautiful house was ready.

When Ramanna came there, all the animals said together, "here Ramanna, here's our gift for you."

Ramanna was surprised. He said, "I'm sorry, I teased you all a lot. I never thought of your strengths and abilities. You are all good friends, helping friends."

