

# Sarita and the Elephant Bird

STAGE 4

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## Sarita and the Elephant Bird

Modified for use by Literacy for Peace and Justice



**Sarita**



**Anvi**  
Elephant Bird

## Characters



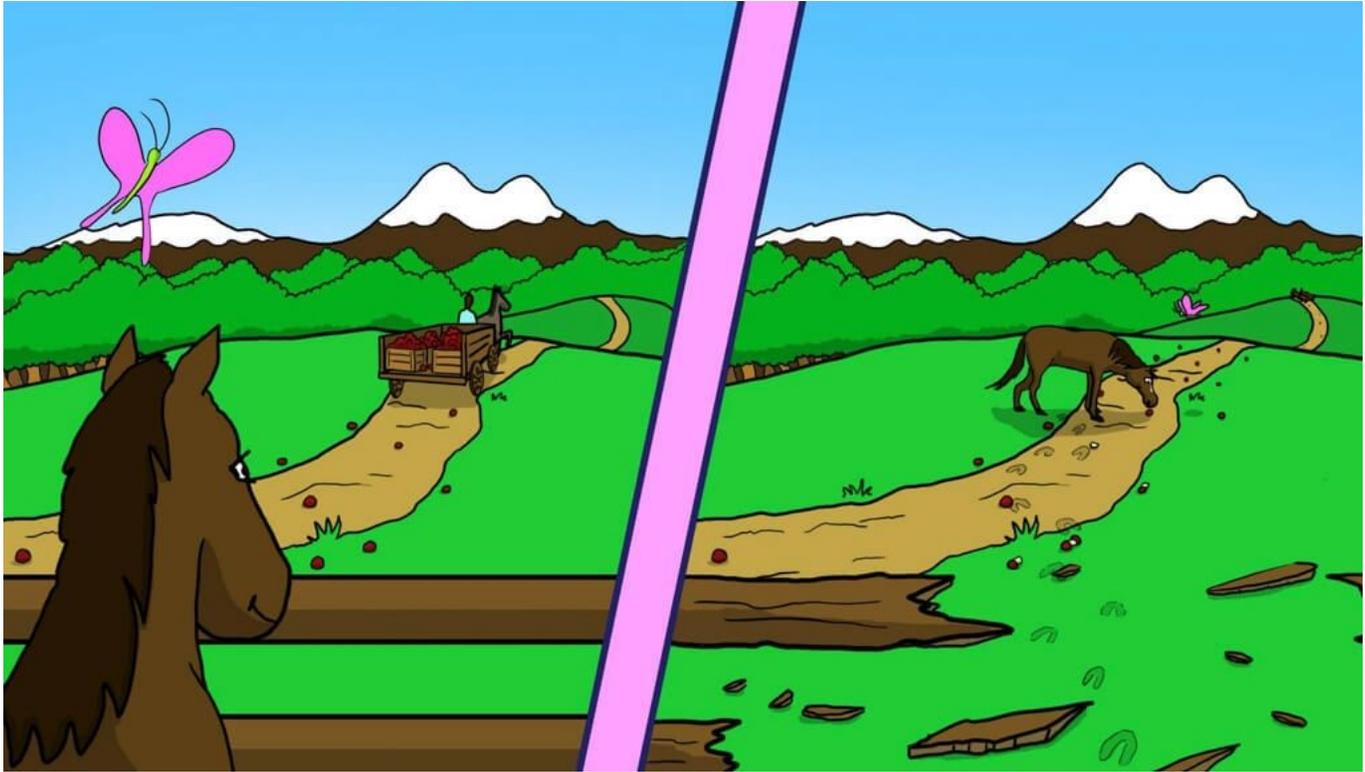
Sarita lives in a village near the forest. She uses crutches to walk, so she is slower than the other kids. Sarita wants to join other kids to play games.



Sarita made a secret friend in the forest, Anvi, a giant bird. She is so huge that she cannot fly. People call her the Elephant Bird. They are afraid of Anvi. Sarita's mom tells Sarita to stay away from the Elephant Bird.



But Sarita knows Anvi is tame and sweet. She rides on Anvi's back to reach apples high up in the tall trees.



One day, apples fall from an apple farmer's cart onto the road. A horse runs to eat the apples. He eats the apples and spits out the cores.



Anvi sees the apple cores on her way home to the forest. She takes a bite. She makes big footprints on the road.



In the town, people are talking about the missing horse. "The Elephant Bird ate our horse!" screams one man. Sarita stands in front of the crowd. She tells them, "It wasn't Anvi! She only eats plants." But an old man tells her, "Shh! Children should be quiet."



Sarita's mother scolds her, "You know kids should not talk in front of adults. Now go home."



Sarita is so upset because she thinks people will hurt Anvi. So, she makes a plan to find out what happened. First, she goes to the fence. Next, she sees the horse's footprints down the road.



At night, people go to the forest to find Anvi. While they hunt for Anvi, Sarita races to save her. She will ride Anvi and follow the trail that leads to the horse.



Finally, Sarita comes to Anvi's nest. "Come with me!" she pleads with Anvi. She climbs up on Anvi's back. They run to hide deeper in the forest.



After some time, they run to the road. Sarita uses her lantern to light their way. They follow the horse's footprints.



The road leads to an apple orchard. They shine a light on the horse! It is still eating apples.



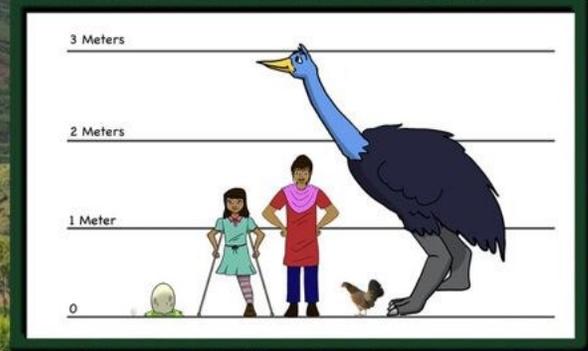
The people arrive and they are surprised! "How did you know the horse was here?" they ask. Sarita says, "I saw his footprints on the road. Anvi and I followed them here." The old man says, "We should not be scared of things that are different."



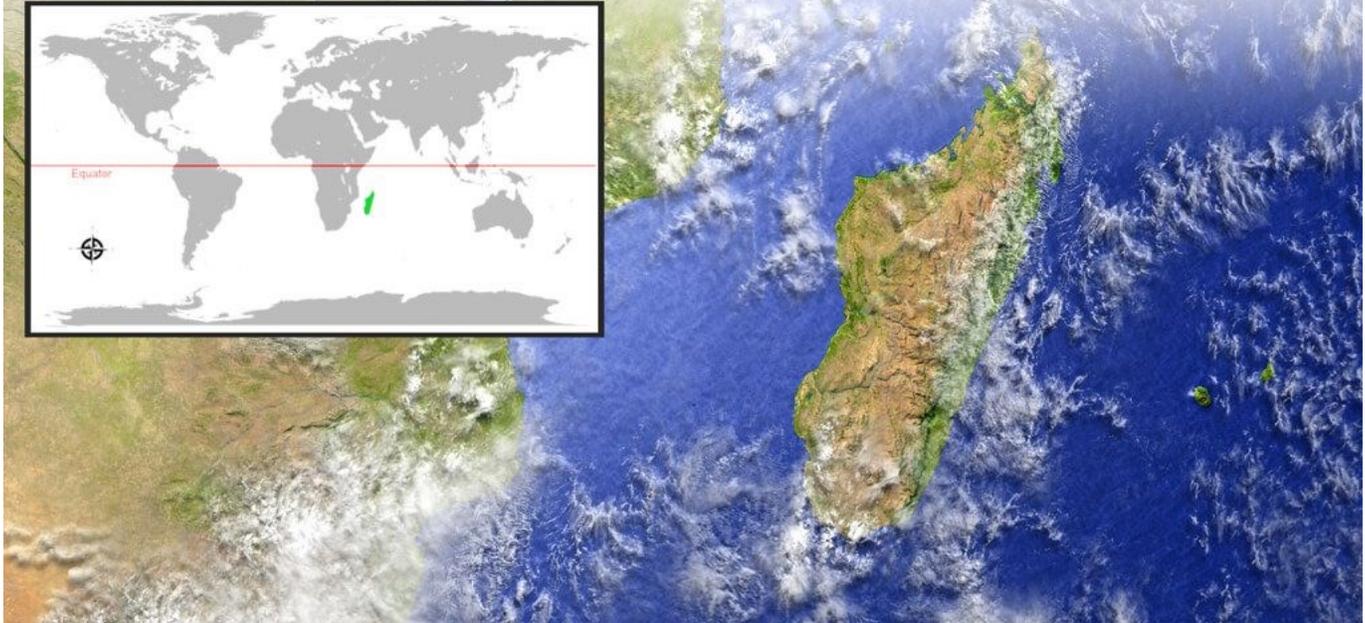
After that, everyone includes Anvi and Sarita when they play. They do not care if they are different. Sarita is clever and she helps the kids win games. Sarita and Anvi are so thrilled to be included.

## Elephant Bird Facts

- Lived in Madagascar off the coast of East Africa
- Became extinct in the 1600's
- Closest living relative is the Kiwi bird of New Zealand
- Weighed 500 KG (1,100 lbs)
- 3 Meters Tall (9.8 Feet)
- Their eggs were bigger than a human head



# Map of Madagascar

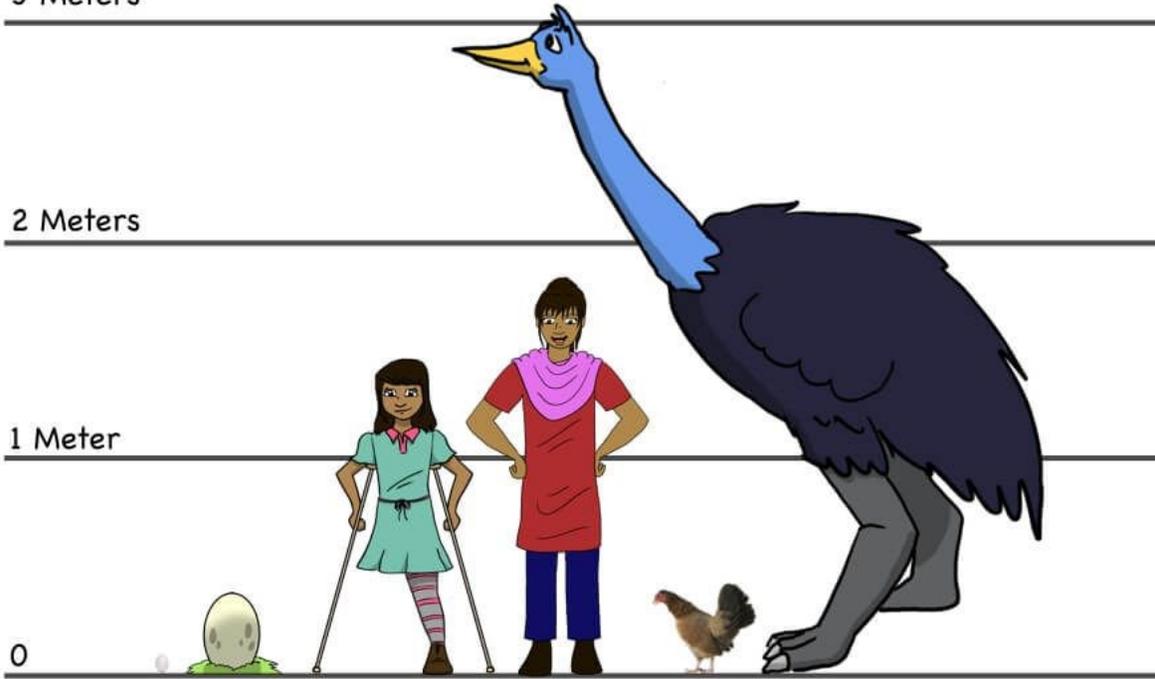


3 Meters

2 Meters

1 Meter

0



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