Nest Book
Sarita and the Elephant Bird

Meet the story's main characters

Sarita lives in a village near the forest. She uses crutches to walk, so she cannot run like other kids. Sarita wants to play games with the village kids.
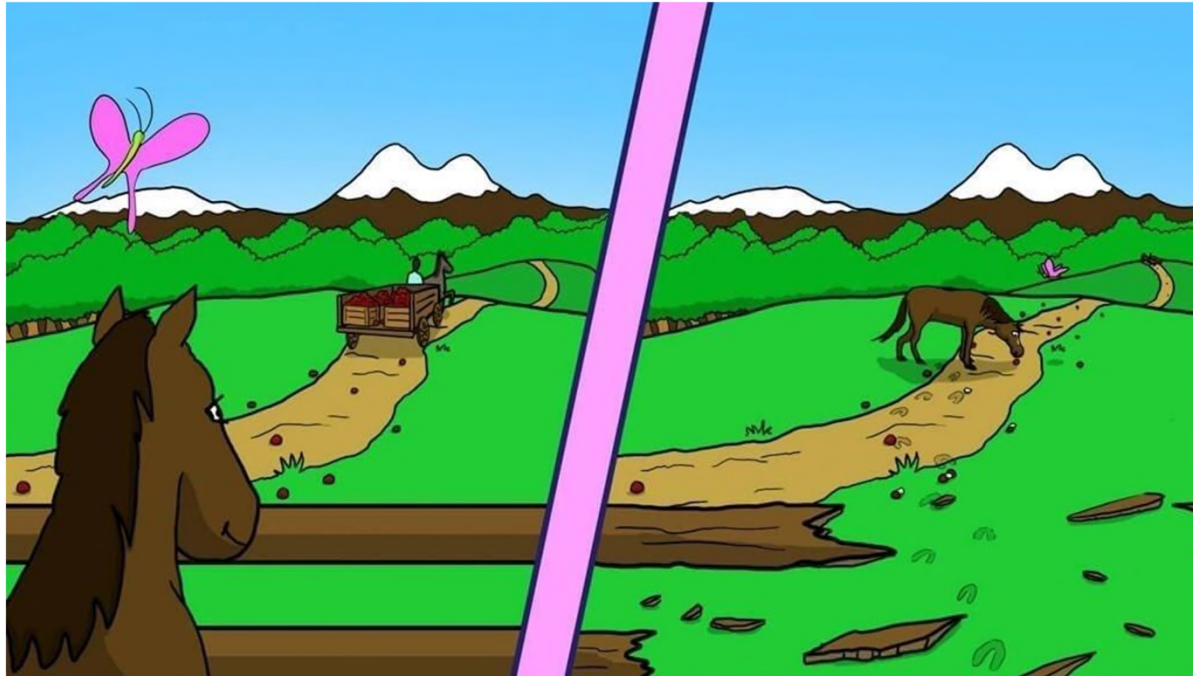
Sarita has a secret friend in the forest, Anvi, a very big bird. She is so big that she cannot fly. People call her the Elephant Bird. They are afraid of Anvi. Sarita's mom tells Sarita to stay away from the Elephant Bird.

But Sarita knows Anvi is tame and kind. She rides on Anvi's back to get apples in the tall trees.

The village has only one horse. One day, the horse sees apples fall onto the road. He gets out of the fence, eats the apples, and leaves footprints on the ground.

Anvi sees the apples on her way home to the forest, and she eats one. She makes big footprints on the road, too.

In the village, people talk about the missing horse. "The Elephant Bird ate our horse!" says one man.

Sarita stands in front of the people. She says, "It wasn't Anvi! She is a good bird." But an old man tells her, "Shh! Children should be quiet."

Sarita's mother tells her, "You know kids should listen to adults. Now go home."

Sarita is so sad 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 on the road.

Then, Sarita and Anvi run to the road. Sarita uses her lantern to see. They follow the horse's footprints.

The road goes to a farm with apple trees. They shine a light on the horse! It is still eating apples.

The people come and they are so happy! "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."
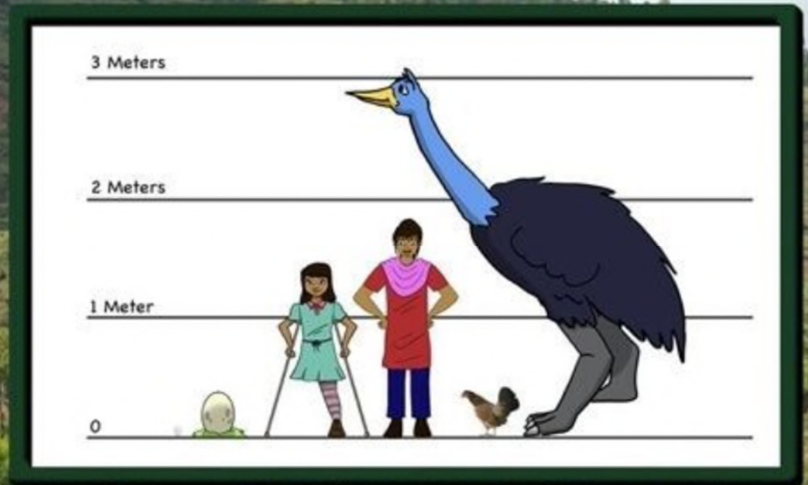
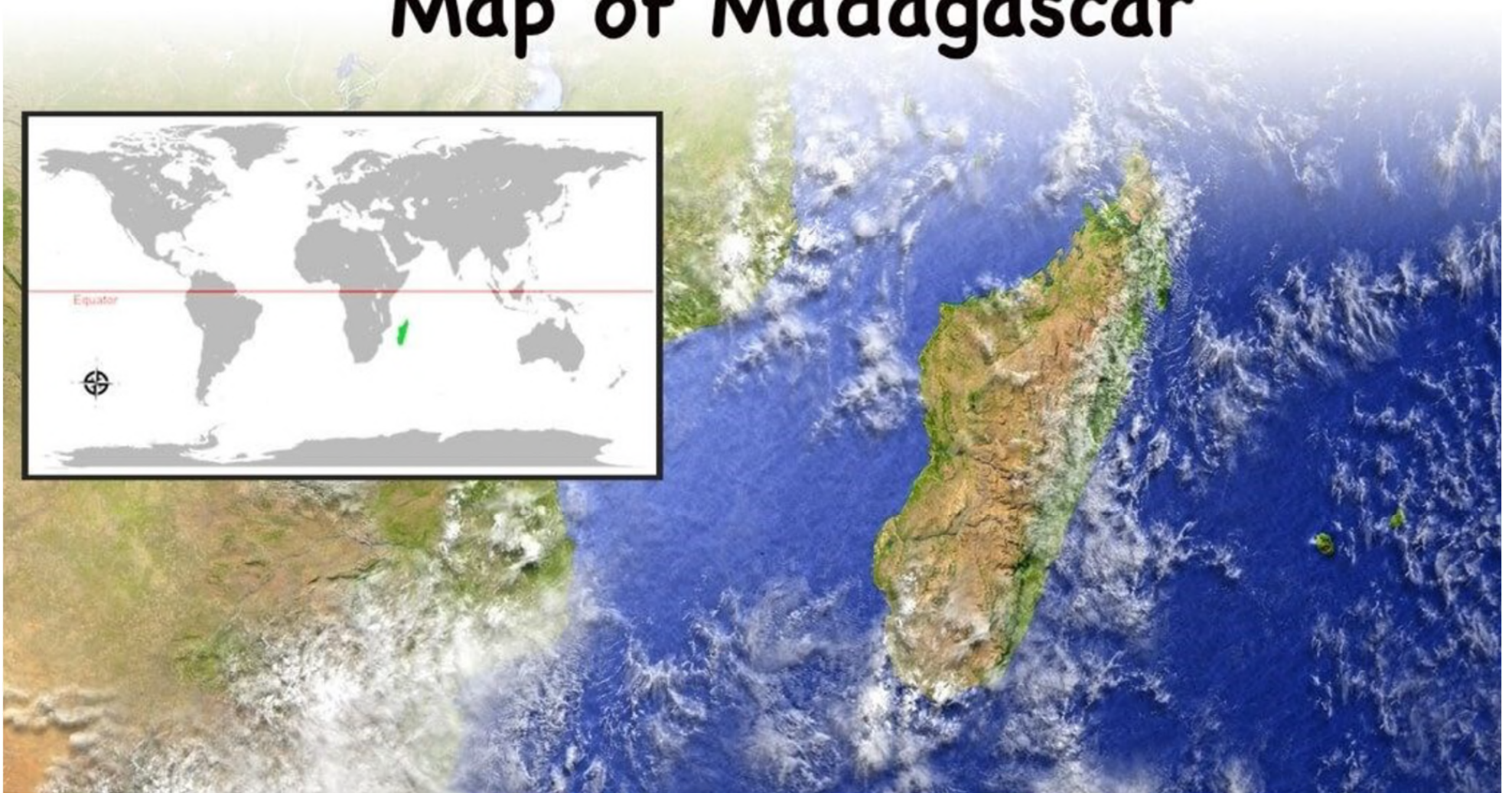After that, everyone includes Anvi and Sarita when they play. They do not care if they are different.
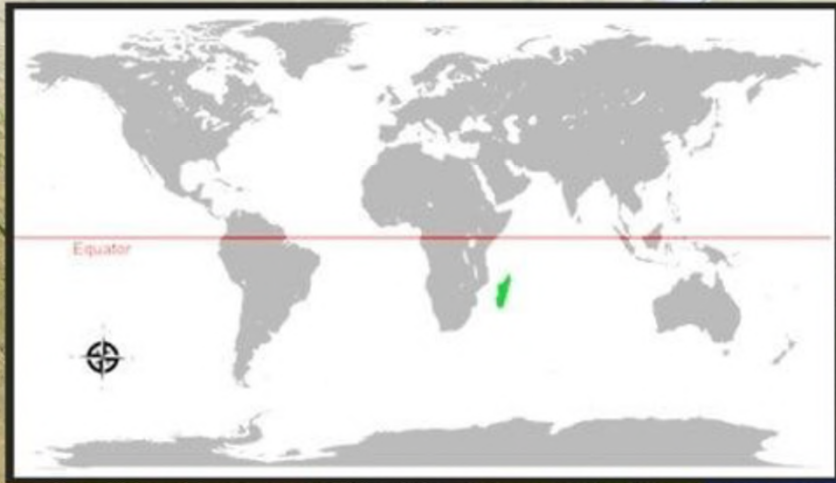

Sarita is clever and she helps the kids win games. Sarita and Anvi are so happy to be included.

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

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