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Opening pages of a readers' theater script for primary school – a fantasy story about animal camouflage

SETUP: The NARRATOR should stand or sit wherever he or she can easily relate to the audience and is most comfortable. READERS 1, 2, 4, 5, & 6 enter in the characters of their animals and sit on the floor, facing forward, behind their assigned seats. READER 3 enters as Sarah, swinging her trunk. She takes her seat. The cast members open their scripts. The story begins.

How To Hide An Elephant

Narrator: The Greenville Zoo was closing, and the animals would soon be moved to new homes. Sarah the elephant had lived at the zoo all her life, but the news of the move gave her an idea.

Sarah: "I want to see the world."

Narrator: Yes, Sarah wanted to travel. She wanted a vacation. Sarah paced back and forth in the elephant yard.

Sarah: "I'm tired of people staring at me."

Narrator: She longed to travel in the mountains. She wanted to go to the beach. As Sarah thought about all the wonderful places she had never seen, a new thought popped into her head; if she visited those places, she would be the only elephant for miles around. Imagine how people would stare at her.

Sarah: 'I am very shy.'

Mouse: 'I go everywhere, but no one sees me...'

Narrator: ...piped a squeaky voice. The voice seemed to come from somewhere near the fence at the edge of the yard, but Sarah didn't see anyone.

Let's all ask the hidden animal to come out.

All but Mouse: 'COME OUT. COME OUT. WE CAN'T SEE YOU.'

(IF MOUSE HAS BEEN HIDDEN, HE APPEARS DURING THE NEXT SPEECH AND SITS IN CHAIR 2.)

Narrator: A small gray animal scurried from the shadows.

All but Mouse: 'THERE YOU ARE. YOU'RE MOUSE.'

Mouse: 'I am hard to see.'

Sarah: 'You're lucky.'

Narrator: Mouse straightened his whiskers with a delicate paw.

Mouse: 'I'm not lucky. I'm good at hiding. I'm like a shadow--gray and quick and small.'

Narrator: Mouse shook his tail proudly.

Mouse: 'That's how I hide. I run near walls and corners, where there are shadows.'

Sarah: 'I wish I could hide like you do, but I'm not small or quick.'

Mouse: 'You are gray, like a shadow. Not all shadows are small...'

Narrator: ...Mouse said.

Mouse: 'The shadow of a building is big and gray, just like you. If you take care...'

Sarah: ...'and if I stand very still...'

Mouse: ...'you can visit a city.'

All but Sarah: YOU CAN HIDE
IN THE SHADOWS, SARAH!

Rabbit: 'There are other places to hide. I'm
hiding now. I'm hiding in the yard.'

Narrator: Sarah and Mouse looked in the direction
of the voice. The sun was shining
brightly in the elephant yard, but they
could see only green grass and splotchy
patches of gray-brown dirt.

Sarah: 'Where are you?'

Rabbit: 'You'll have to find me.'

Mouse: 'Are you very small?'

Rabbit: 'Not as small as you are, Mouse.'

Sarah: 'Then you must be keeping very still...'

Narrator: ...said Sarah. She and Mouse couldn't see
anyone.

Let's all ask the hidden animal to

come out.