



“Saskia Looks for Colours”

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Age: 5+

Saskia the elephant girl is sad. She doesn't know her colours yet. When the elephant rests after a long journey, Saskia decides to do something about it. She sets off on an expedition to find colours and get to know them better. What colour is a lion? Is it yellow, or is it the colour of the sky? What colour is a leopard? Do you know what colours they are?

Awards:

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Reading sample

Saskia the elephant girl is sad because she doesn't know her colours. Or at least that's what her friends and family think.

For example, when someone asks her what the colour of water is, she replies, "Water-coloured."

And when someone asks her what colour the sun is, she replies, "Sun-coloured, of course!"

But answers like these aren't anywhere near good enough for the others.

One day, when the elephant family is resting at the riverside after a long ramble, Saskia decides to search high and low for the colours and get to know them.

"Stay close to home," warns the elephant girl's Grandma.

"Be careful," worries the elephant girl's Mum.

"Keep your eyes peeled," says the elephant girl's Dad, encouragingly.

"Stay cool!" shouts the elephant girl's sister as she runs to play with the other elephant girls.

And Saskia's Grandad is so tired from the ramble that he is sound asleep having forty winks and doesn't even notice her leaving.

Saskia the elephant girl waves to her family and sets off. She is so excited that she doesn't notice that with every step her surroundings become less and less familiar. Soon she is far away from home.

As she is walking she comes across a lion.

The elephant girl says hello politely and asks, "Lion, do you know where I might find the colour yellow?"

"I do indeed!" roars the lion. "That's the colour I am!"

Saskia the elephant girl begins to laugh, "You? But you're sun-coloured and I'm looking for yellow." And she walks happily on.

The lion looks first at himself and then thoughtfully towards the sun...



Saskia the elephant girl walk carries on walking. Around her, nature is ever more abundant and more colourful.

Some way off she sees a parrot, waves to it with her trunk and asks, "Parrot, do you know where I might find the colour blue?"

"Of course I do!" squawks the parrot and lands on her arm. "That's the colour I am!"

Saskia the elephant girl begins to laugh, "You? But you're sky-coloured and I'm looking for blue."

And she walks on in the hope of finding colours somewhere.

The parrot takes flight, looks at herself and then thoughtfully towards the sky...

Saskia the elephant girl comes across a stretch of river and sees a crocodile sunbathing on the riverbank.

The elephant girl sits down next to the crocodile, sprays herself with some river water and asks, "Crocodile, do you know where I might find the colour green?"

"Of course I do!" rumbles the crocodile. "That's the colour I am!"

Saskia the elephant girl begins to laugh, "You? But you're grass-coloured and I'm looking for green."

She stands up to walk deeper into the jungle.

The crocodile looks at himself and then thoughtfully towards the tufts of grass a way off...

Saskia the elephant girl looks for a path through the dense jungle. She's finding it difficult to get through the forest but she won't give up.

She keeps walking until a beautiful butterfly flies her way.

The elephant girl admires the butterfly and asks, "Butterfly, do you know where I can find the colour red?"

"Of course I do!" trills the butterfly. "That's the colour I am!"

Saskia the elephant girl begins to laugh, "You? But you're sunset-coloured and I'm looking for red." And she carries on walking.

The butterfly looks at herself and then thoughtfully towards the setting sun...



Saskia the elephant girl ventures further into the darkening jungle until night falls.

Suddenly she notices a pair of eyes in the dark. Worn out, the elephant girl nervously moves closer to the pair of eyes and asks cautiously, "Invisible creature, do you know where I can find the colour black?"

"Of course I do!" whispers the panther. "That's the colour I am!"

Saskia the elephant girl begins to tremble, "You? But you're night-coloured and I'm looking for black." And sinks to the floor, tired out.

The panther looks at herself and then thoughtfully into the darkness...

"Where are all the colours?" the elephant girl begins to cry. "Why are they all hiding from me?"

The panther would like to comfort her but doesn't know how. He keeps padding round her and asking, "Why are you looking for black in the jungle at night? At night the jungle's a dangerous place. You should be at home with your Mum and Dad right now."

"Yes I should," sobs Saskia the elephant girl, "but first I want to find all the colours and learn to recognise them. But nobody I met on my journey could help me."

And she tells the panther who she met during the day.

"They did help you," says panther, "it's just that you didn't hear what they were saying. You do know all the colours, you just don't know the right words for them. Let's see, what do I remind you of? The night – which is the colour black."

"You mean I found black at least?" Saskia the elephant girl asks as she wipes away her tears.

"Yes, you did, and I think you also met yellow, blue, green and red. And when morning comes I'm sure you'll meet lots of other colours too."

"Including grey?" asks Saskia the elephant girl.

"Definitely. Just take a look at yourself and you'll find grey ... But come with me now, I'll take you home," says the panther, and leads the elephant girl to her parents' house.

In the morning when Saskia the elephant girl opens her eyes while her mummy is cuddling her, the first thing she says is, "Mummy, you've got such beautiful grey eyes."

Everyone but Grandad, who is still snoring, begins to laugh and is very pleased about the colour grey.

One day Saskia the elephant girl meets a flamingo and learns all about pink.

Two days later she gets to know a rhino, who is grey like she is.

And the day after that she meets a monkey who's brown, and a desert-sand foxcub, who is white.

The zebra, giraffe and cheetah are all a bit confusing for Saskia the elephant girl and she has lots of questions about them – they are all lots of colours at once.

Do you know what colours they are?

Translated by Susan Wilson

