

Elephant Adventure by Willard Price

The great bull elephant blocked the path.

The boys climbing the steep trail had thought at first that a cloud had covered the sun.

They looked up to find that it was not a cloud that had darkened the sky. It was the black bulk of the largest elephant they had ever seen.

The beast was as surprised as they were. He stopped short and blinked down at them, rumbling angrily, stretching his trunk forward to catch their scent.

His ears had been folded against his shoulders. Now they opened like two enormous umbrellas. They stood out on either side of his fine head as big as table tops. In fact if you made dining tables out of them, eight people could sit at each. Hal estimated their total space, tip to tip, at a good fourteen feet. The beast's deadly tusks, flashing white in the sun, were six feet long.

It was like Hal Hunt to start measuring at a moment like this. His younger brother, Roger, was not so cool.

"Let's get out of here," he suggested.

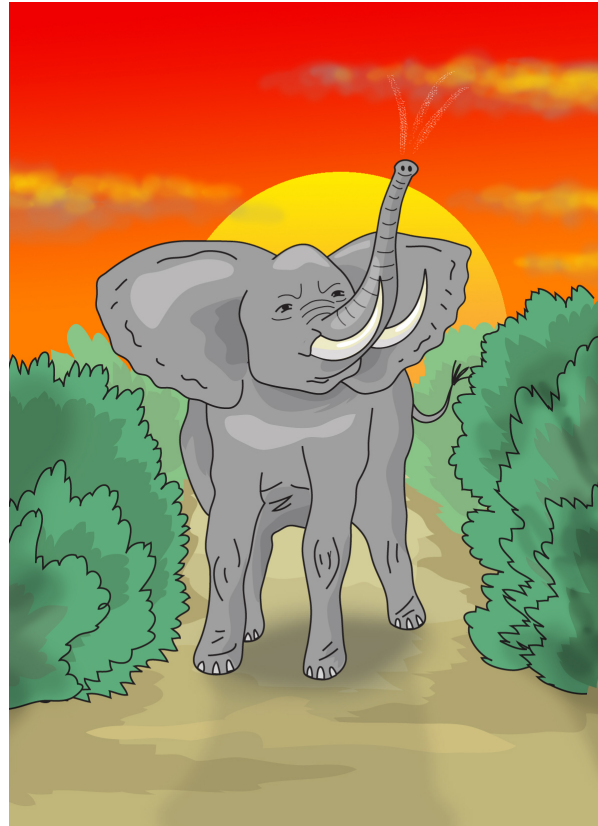
"Where to?" The path was solidly walled on both sides by thick brush.

"Back where we came from," Roger said.

"Won't do any good to run. Then he'd be sure to charge. He can move down this path faster than we can. We'd only get squashed under six tons of elephant – no, closer to seven tons."

"Will you cut out your figuring," Roger retorted, "and do something?"

The bull threw up his trunk and let out a scream that sent the chills up and down the spine and started every bird and monkey within earshot screeching and chattering.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 Look at the first paragraph (beginning *“The great bull elephant blocked the path.”*) and the second paragraph (beginning *“They looked up”*).
What made the boys look up and see the elephant?

2b

1 mark

2 *“He stopped short and blinked down at them, rumbling angrily”*.
In this sentence, which word is closest in meaning to *“rumbling”*?
Choose **one**.

crashing

growling

screaming

whispering

2a

1 mark

3 *“The beast’s deadly tusks, flashing white in the sun, were six feet long.”*
Why does the writer tell you that the tusks are *“deadly”*?

2g

1 mark

4 Explain how Hal’s reaction to the elephant is different from Roger’s.

2h

1 mark

5 Why was the elephant a possible danger to the boys?
Explain **two** ways, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

2d

3 marks

6 Number the elephant’s actions to show the order in which they happen in the story.

“threw up his trunk”

stretched his trunk forward

“blinked down at them”

opened his ears

2c

1 mark