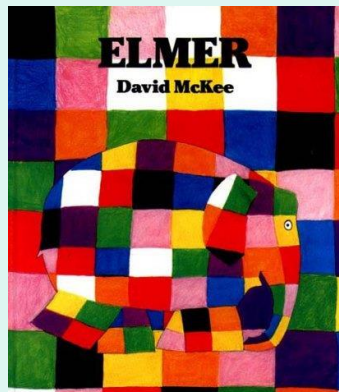


**It's good to be me!**

**I'm Special**





# Elmer

By David McKee

A herd of grey elephants of various sizes and shapes on a green field. The elephants are depicted in a simple, stylized manner with large ears and trunks. They are scattered across the frame, some facing left, some right, and some looking towards the viewer. The background is a solid green color representing grass.

There was once a herd of elephants.

Elephants young, elephants old,  
elephants tall or fat or thin.

Elephants like this, that or the  
other, all different but all  
happy and all the same colour.

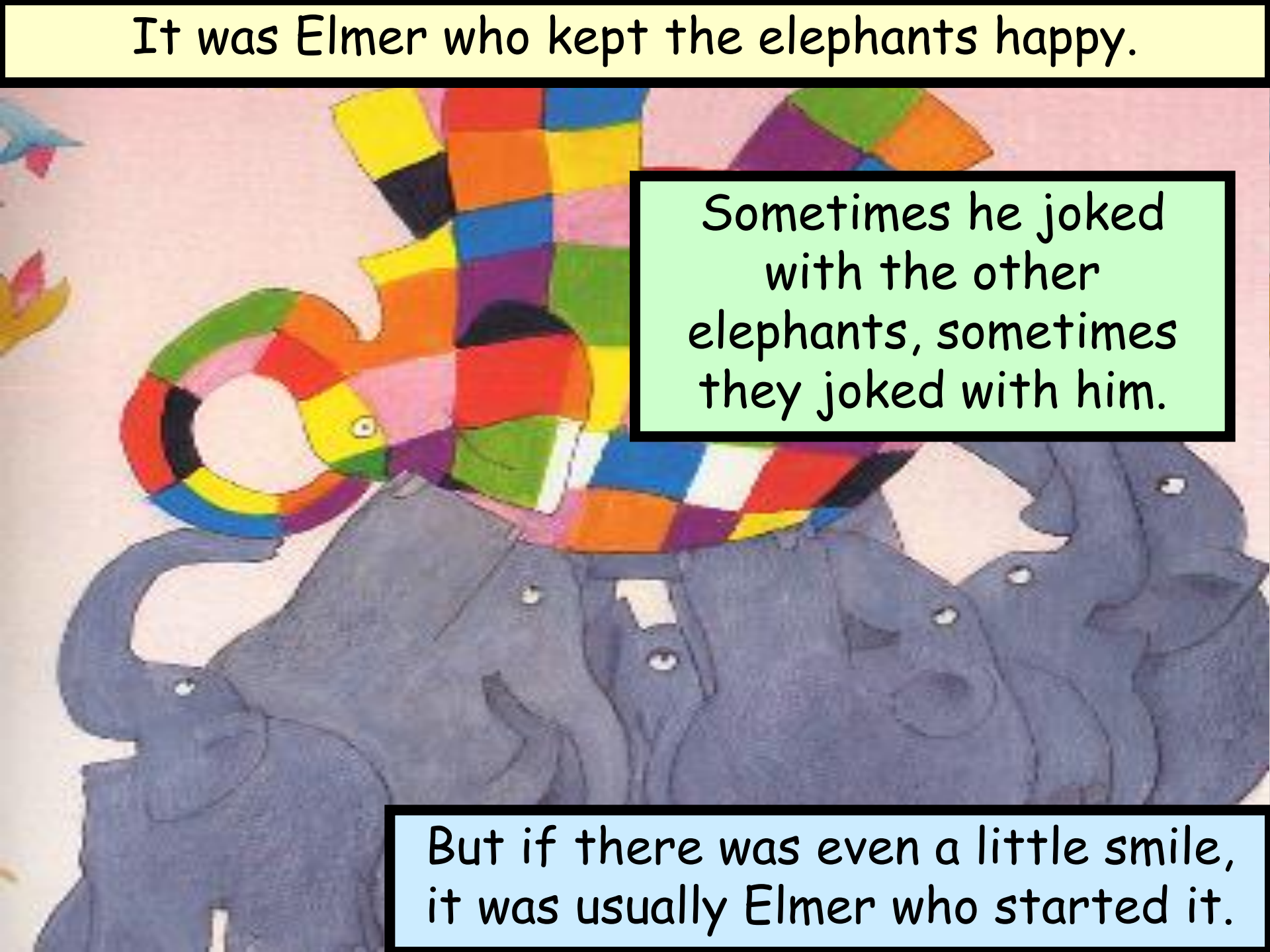
All, that is, except Elmer.

Elmer was yellow and  
orange and red and pink  
and purple and blue and  
green and black and  
white



Elmer was not elephant colour.

It was Elmer who kept the elephants happy.



Sometimes he joked  
with the other  
elephants, sometimes  
they joked with him.

But if there was even a little smile,  
it was usually Elmer who started it.

One night Elmer couldn't sleep for thinking, and the think he was thinking was that he was tired of being different.

Whoever heard  
of a patchwork  
elephant?

he thought

No wonder  
they laugh  
at me.



In the morning before the others were really awake,  
Elmer slipped quietly away, unnoticed.

As he walked through the jungle,  
Elmer met other animals

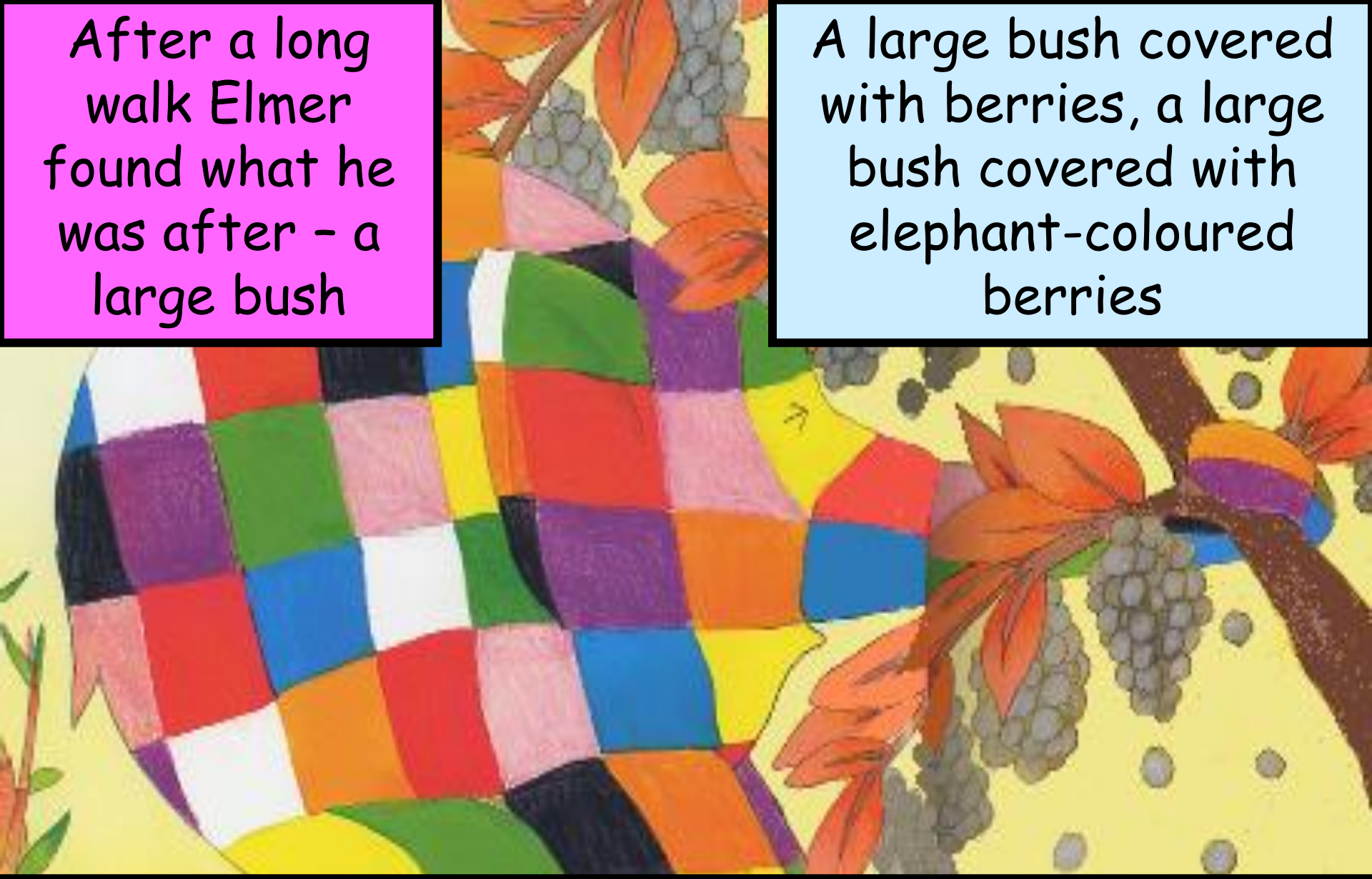
They always said: " Good Morning, Elmer"



Each time Elmer smiled and said: " Good Morning."

After a long walk Elmer found what he was after - a large bush

A large bush covered with berries, a large bush covered with elephant-coloured berries



Elmer caught hold of the bush and shook it and shook it so that the berries fell on the ground.



Then he picked up a bunch of berries and rubbed himself all over, covering himself with berry juice until there wasn't a sign of any yellow, or orange, or red, or pink, or purple, or blue, or green, or black, or white.



When he had finished, Elmer looked like any other elephant.

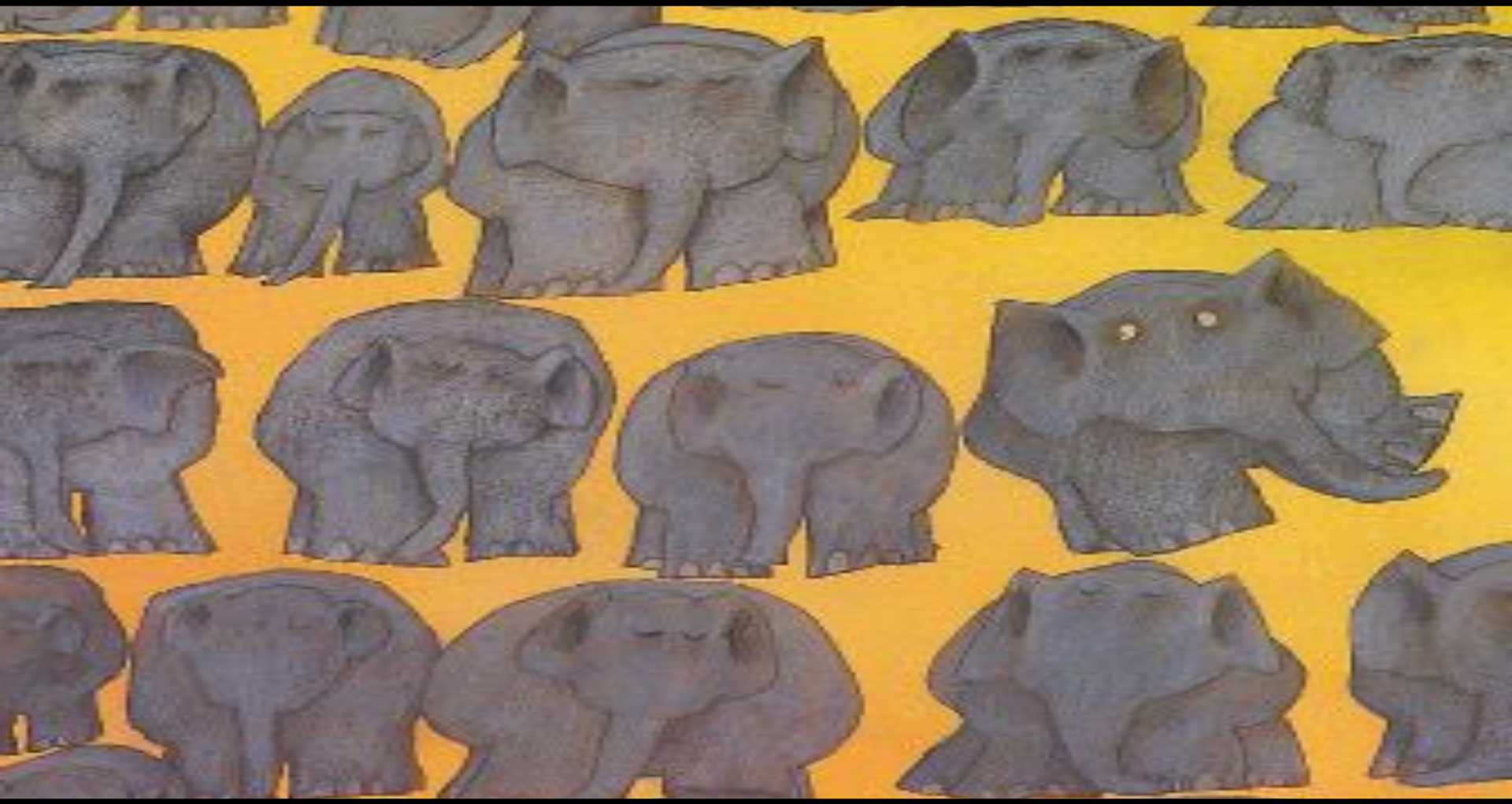
After that Elmer set off back to the herd. On the way he passed the other animals again.

This time each one said to him: "Good Morning, elephant"

Each time Elmer smiled and said: "Good Morning," pleased he wasn't recognised



When Elmer rejoined the other elephants they were all standing quietly.



None of them noticed Elmer as he made his way to the middle of the herd.

After a while Elmer felt that something was wrong. But What? He looked around: same old jungle, same old bright sky, same old rain cloud that came over from time to time and lastly same old elephants.



Elmer looked at them.

The elephants were standing absolutely still. Elmer had never seen them so serious before.



The more he looked at the serious, silent, still standing elephants, the more he wanted to laugh.

Finally he could bear it no longer. He lifted up his trunk and at the top of his voice shouted:

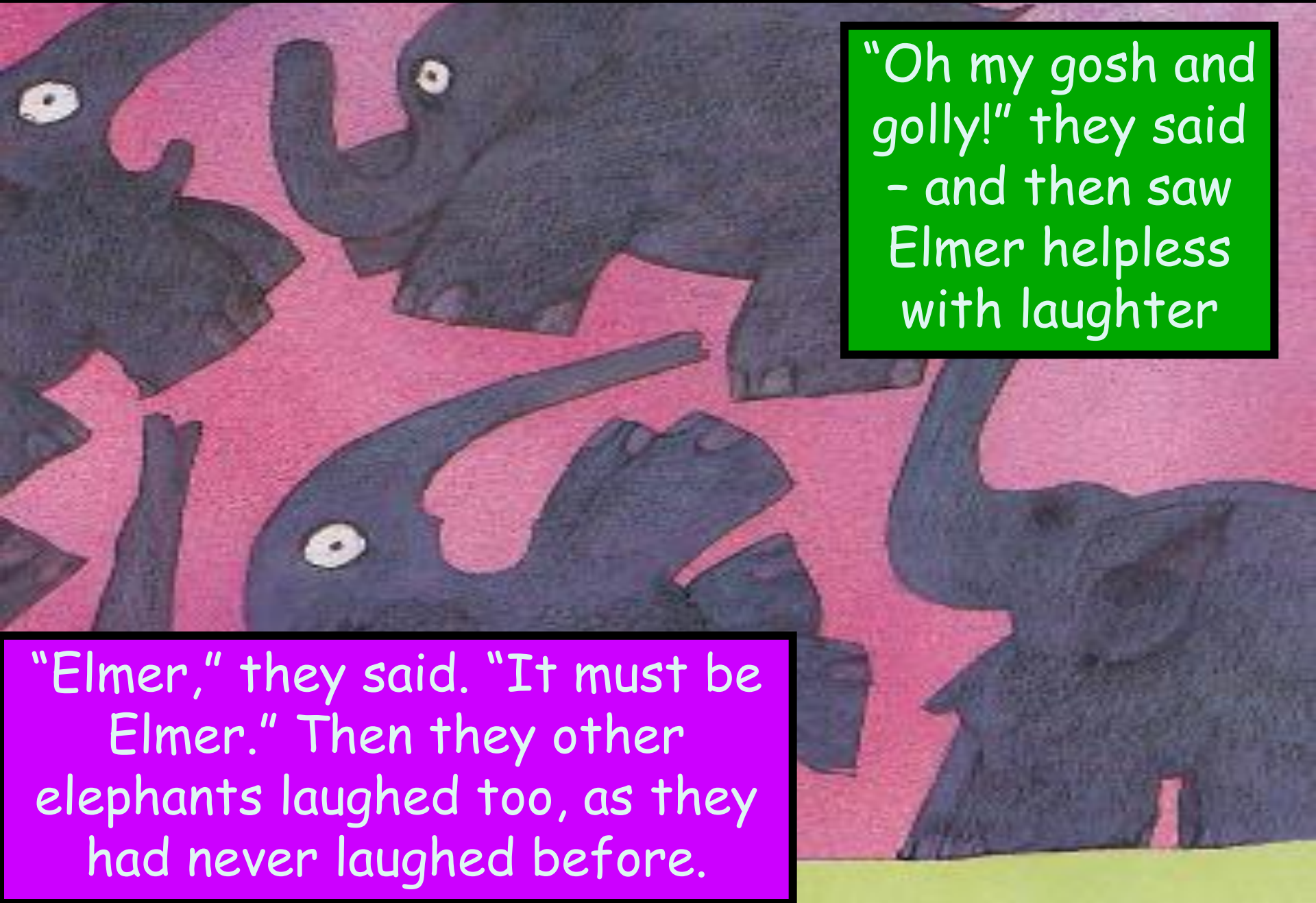
**BOOO!**



The Elephants jumped and fell all ways in surprise.

"Oh my gosh and golly!" they said - and then saw Elmer helpless with laughter

"Elmer," they said. "It must be Elmer." Then they other elephants laughed too, as they had never laughed before.



The AsiepleynghtsugthieldctingheadraslElnedbrunvsts andst hvece htoctle  
o narniralf. e"DanElmer," hyspæctlawordstæphtædtto"ysove  
played some good jokes but this has been the  
biggest laugh of all. It didn't take you long to show  
your true colours."



"We must celebrate this day every year," said another. All the elephants must decorate themselves and Elmer will decorate himself elephant colour."

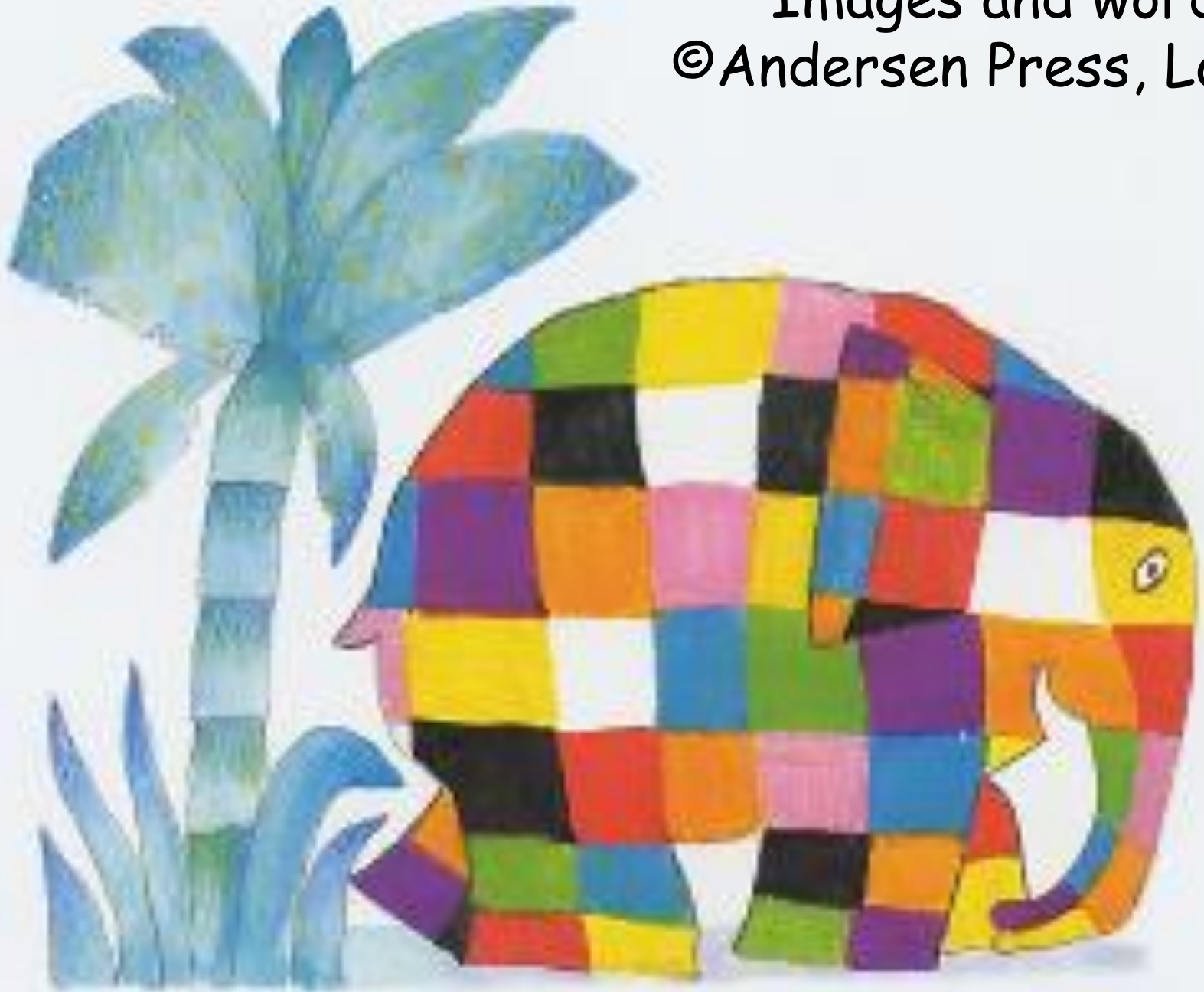


That is exactly what the elephants do.



On one day a year they decorate themselves and parade. On that day if you happen to see an elephant ordinary elephant colour you will know it must be Elmer.

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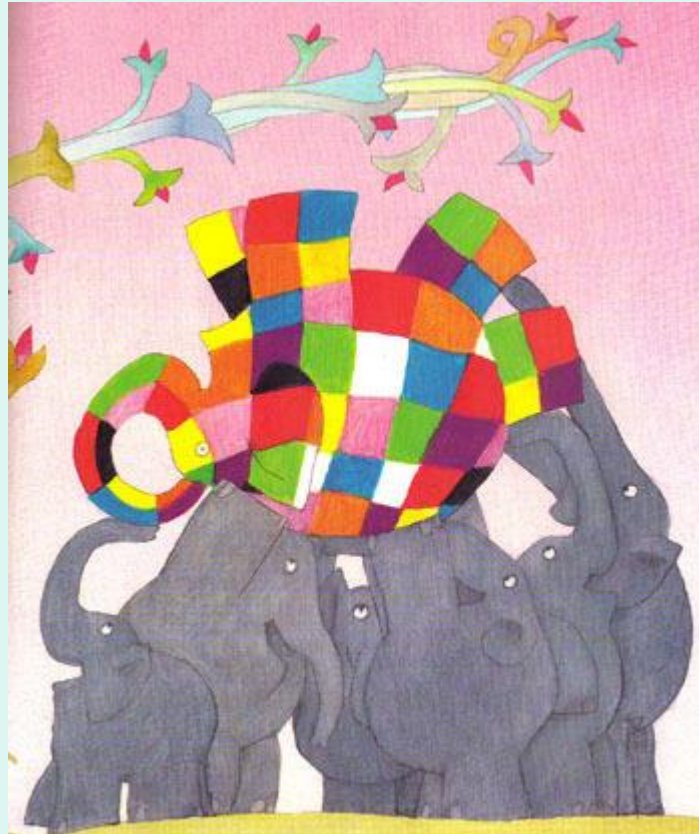
Elmer just wanted to be like everyone else.

He thinks that he is right. He wants to be grey, dull and exactly the same as all the other elephants



However they love Elmer because of the Differences.

- You are very similar to Elmer
  - You are all special
  - You are all different



It's good to be me!

