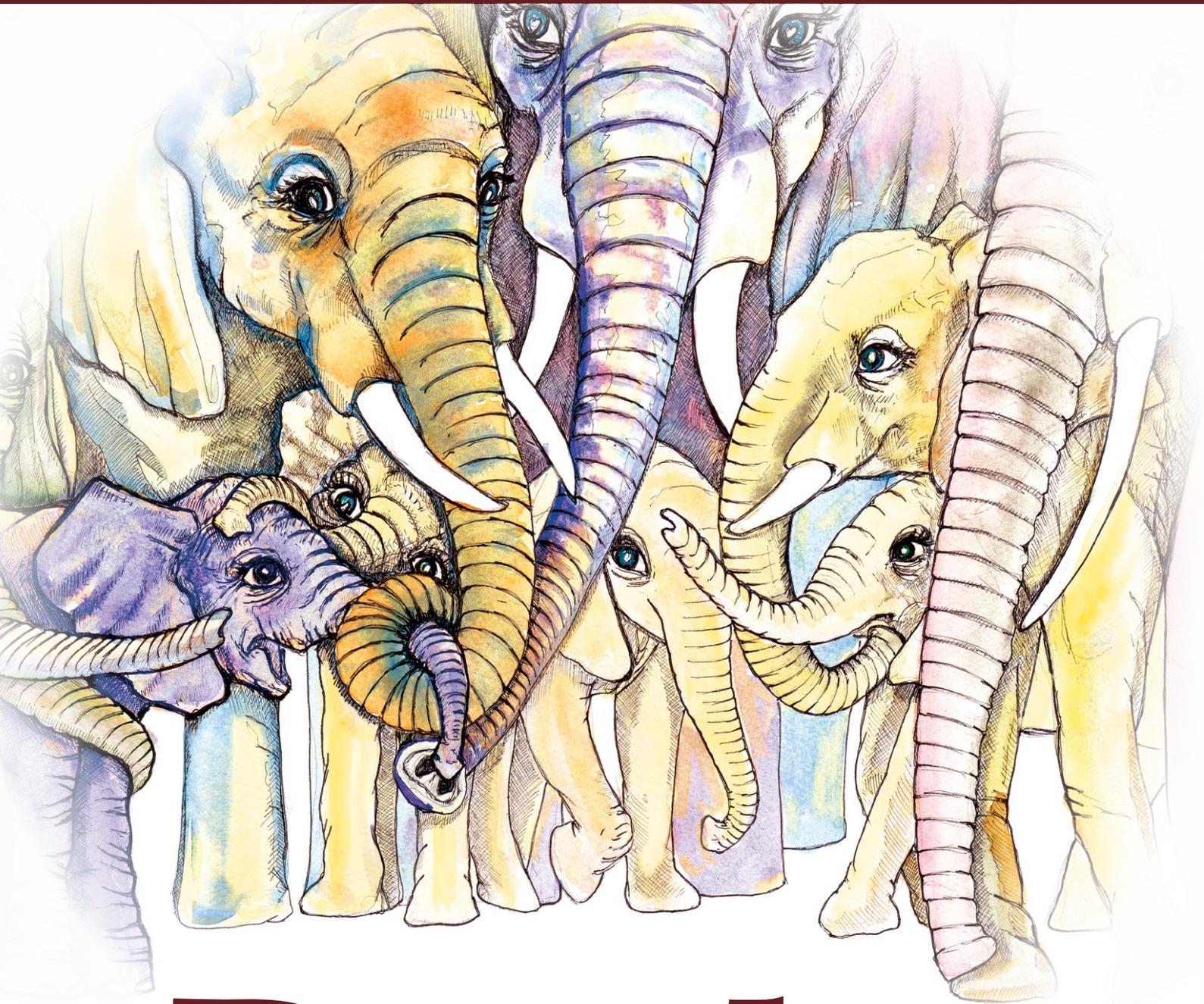


TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE



Paseka

A Little Elephant, Brave

By Ruth James • *Illustrations by* Kent Laforme

An Introduction to *Paseka*

The joy of “story”

Reading aloud to children gives them the opportunity to fall in love with books and reading. They are exposed to language, imaginative discovery and become curious about the world.

Paseka—A Little Elephant, Brave

This little elephant calf, Paseka, captures heart and imagination. The illustrations and text blend to explore resilience in adversity. In this tale of survival the reader falls under the spell as one sees the world through Paseka’s eyes. What can happen to a baby animal without its mother? The story was loosely inspired by real events and strives to explore the universal need to belong and to be loved within a caring community.

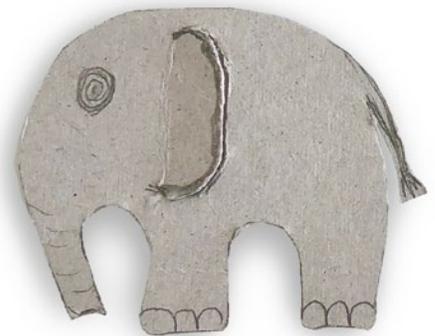
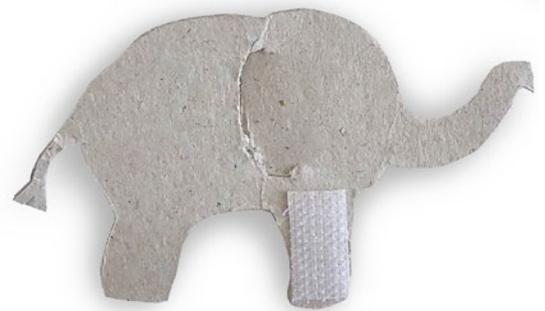
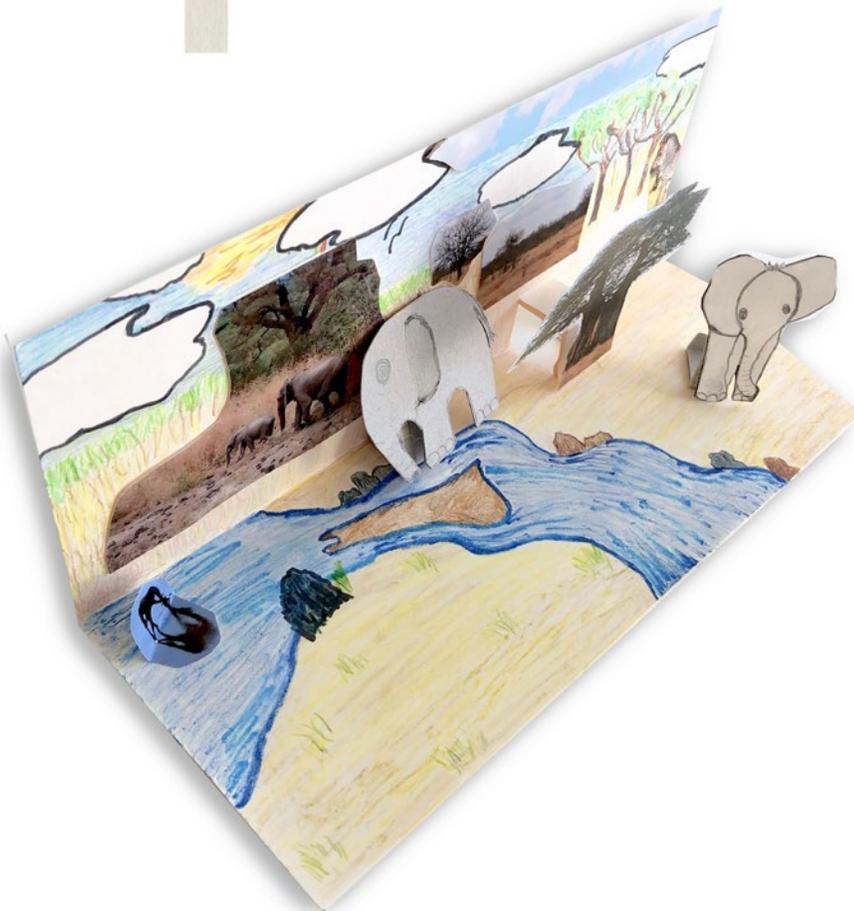
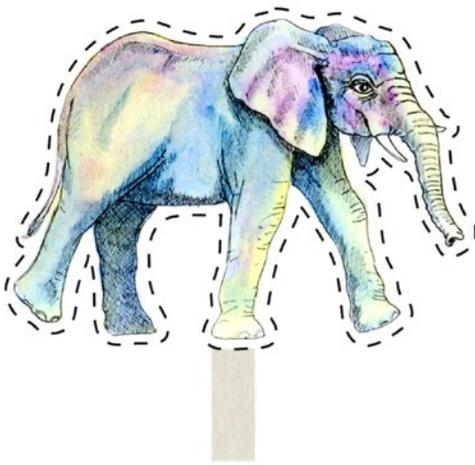
Human beings everywhere are turning their attention to climate change and the need for conservation. The story is emotionally galvanizing and globally relevant. There is a need for children to have stories that touch them deeply and stir them to believe in their own ability to overcome hardship. Hope comes in a resolution rich in tenderness and consolation.

Consideration of British Columbia’s “Redesigned Curriculum” and the Core Competencies were taken into account in the following teaching practises suggested, practises that are continually evolving towards engaging the learner. According to the new curriculum, “Competencies come into play when students are engaged in ‘doing’ in any area of learning. This includes activities where students use thinking, collaboration and communication to solve problems, address issues, or make decisions.”



Classroom Activity: Build a Diorama

Younger students can enjoy learning more about the African Savanna through interactive art projects. Below is a sample of a diorama based on *Paseka*. This diorama used mixed media elements, a helpful tactic to complete an art project more quickly, or for students who feel anxiety around drawing.



Build a Diorama: Base Instructions

Materials: card stock, scissors, supply to draw a setting.

1. Fold card stock in half to create a crease, lengthwise. If there is no card stock available, you can use two pieces of regular paper glued together.
2. Cut three equal sections along the crease. Each section can be a different length, but the length of the cuts on each crease should be the same. Shorter cuts will place objects further back. Longer cuts will place objects closer. (see *Sample Base*)
3. Open card stock and reverse section hinges.
4. Decorate base with crayons, markers, drawings and magazine clippings to create a savanna setting with acacia or baobab trees, a water hole or a river, and savanna grass.

Sample Base



Build a Diorama: Puppet Instructions

Materials: popsicle sticks, scissors, velcro, paper, glue, supply to draw animals.

1. **For popsicle supports:** Glue a small piece of velcro on one side of a short popsicle.
2. **For a triangle base:** Cut a 6cm strip of card stock and fold into 2cm sections. Tape one end to the other to create triangle shape. Attach a piece of velcro to any side.
3. **Drawing puppets:** Create a cast of puppets using card stock. Draw an elephant, hippo, giraffe, hyena or other African animal. Cut out and glue a piece of velcro on the back.
4. **Sourcing puppets:** Print out the included puppet templates in this kit, or cut out animals from a magazine, newspaper or printed media. Glue a piece of velcro on the back.

Puppet Materials



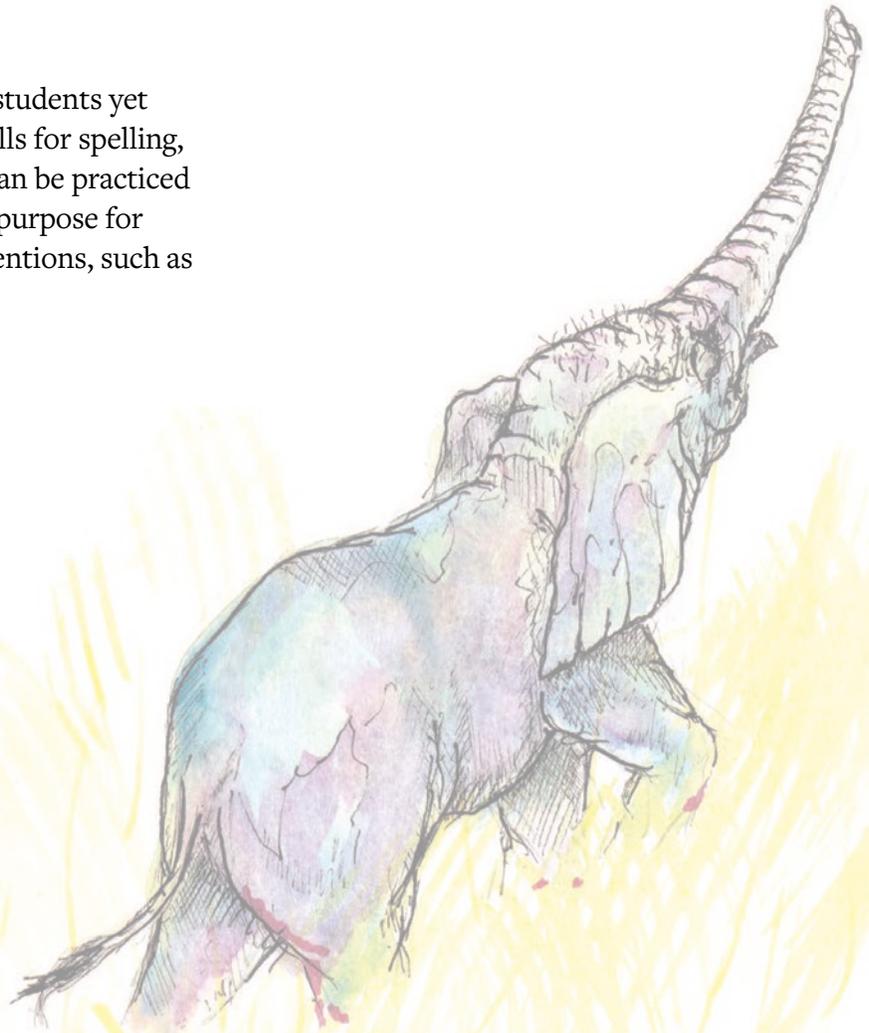
Classroom Activity: Creative Writing

Learning and writing about the the little elephant Paseka gives students the opportunity to learn a great deal about a subject, to reorganize it into personal knowledge (personalize it), and finally to become involved in a process of interpretation.

Suggested writing assignments for *Paseka* include:

1. Making a booklet.
2. Composing a new story.
3. Writing an expository essay.

The open-ended assignments engage students yet reflect a wide range of complexity. Skills for spelling, capitalisation and punctuation (etc) can be practiced within context. “The doing” provides purpose for exploring and learning language conventions, such as sentence structure and essay writing.



Puppet Templates

