

Children's Story  
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Period 4

Alfred the Purple Elephant

Once upon a time there was a bright purple elephant named Alfred. Alfred lived in the Jumbaloo Jungle with his two friends Leonard the fox and Petunia the mouse.

Alfred lived in a hammock. It was bright pink. Alfred loved pink and always wished he were pink instead of purple. Everything he owned was pink. He had pink pillows, pink flowers. One thing you need to know about Alfred (besides his love for pink) is his love for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Peanut butter and jelly was Alfred's favorite food. It's what he ate for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Petunia lived in a little bungalow made out of straw. She loved to cook and bake all sorts of delicious, scrumptious things like chocolate chip cookies, lemon bars and banana cream pies. Alfred and Leonard always looked forward to Petunia's baking. It was their favorite time of day.

Leonard lived right behind the Bushy Bushes. The Bushy Bushes had big, long, lime green leaves that made shade for Leonard to live under. Those bushes had been there for many years and they only got bigger and bigger providing Leonard with a better, shadier home. Leonard always loved the color; it reminded him of Petunia's kiwi tarts she made. Leonard's mouth started to water every time he stared at the leaves. Leonard's bed was made up of long teal feathers. It was very comfortable.

One morning, like every morning, Alfred woke up and made himself a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. He swung on his hammock while enjoying the soft gooey peanut butter melt in his mouth. It was a sunny morning, when a big glob of peanut butter fell out of his sandwich and onto his trunk. Alfred, still enjoying his beautiful morning,

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didn't notice and went on with his day. He walked into town where he always passed by Jasper the rabbit and Olivia the kangaroo houses. He waved to them and went on with his day, when he heard them snickering behind him. "He looks like a big blob of grape jelly HAHAHA!"

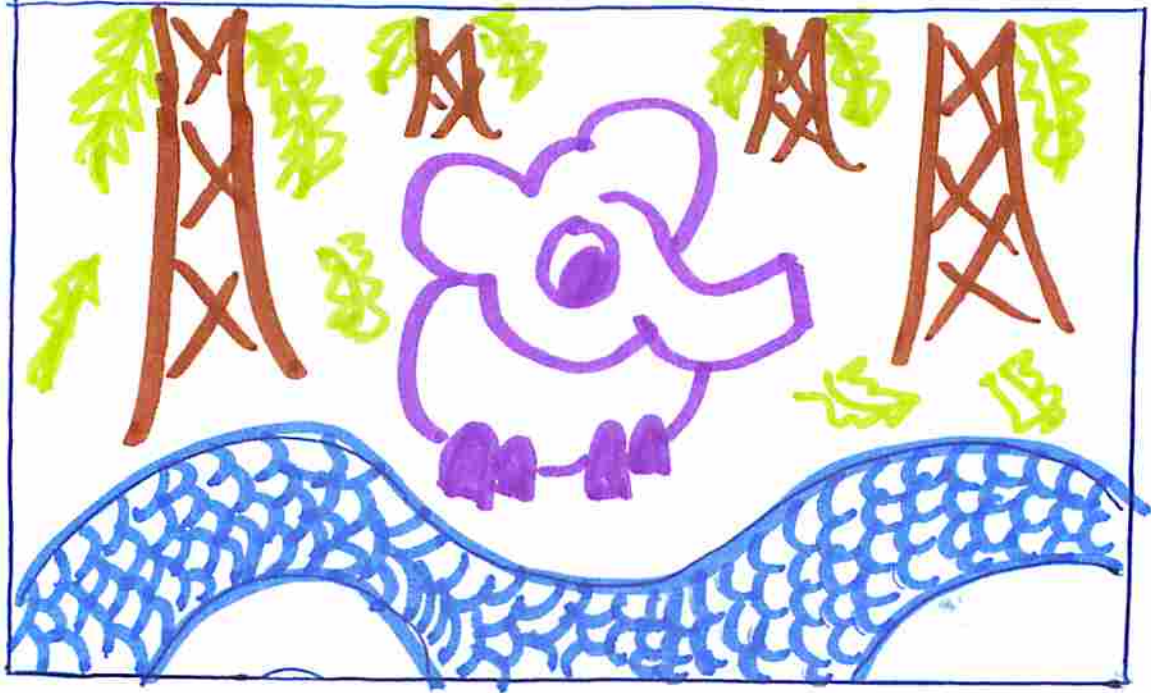
Alfred could barely breath. He hated his purple skin to begin with and that just made him hate it even more! He ran all the way into town, tears streaming down his trunk. He rushed into the Jumbaloo Supermarket bathroom without saying a word to anyone. He looked at himself in the mirror and felt disgusted by the way he looked. Alfred had never been this unhappy before. He started to sob and decided the only way he could feel better about himself is if he wasn't purple anymore. Now Alfred wanted to be pink. Pink always made Alfred happy so he knew that this would work.

He left the bathroom and went through every aisle in the whole store and bought every pink liquid, fruit, vegetable, bread. Anything pink he could find and started eating only pink. Alfred thought the more pink things I eat, I will turn pink. After all, he thought, the reason I look like jelly is because of all the PB and J's I eat. He bought all the pink things in the store and rushed home. He took a longer way to make sure to avoid Jasper and Olivia's house

Alfred got home to his hammock and threw out every container of peanut butter and jelly there ever was and stocked up on only pink things. He started eating all of it so quickly because he couldn't become pink fast enough.

Alfred went to bed that night full but not pink. But he still continued his quest and decided that tomorrow he would ask his friends to help him. He was on a mission.

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Alfred woke up the next morning, still sad. He was trying to brainstorm a whole bunch of new ideas to become pink, but he just couldn't think of any. He went to his friend, Petunia the mouse, to ask for advice.

"Petunia, I need your help with something," Alfred said.

"Anything for you, Alfred," replied Petunia.

"I hate being a purple elephant and I want to become a pink one. Will you help me?" Alfred asked.

"Of course I will. But I want to let you know I think you're beautiful the way you are. But if that's what you want I will help you out. Now what have you tried so far?" Petunia asked.

"Last night I bought every pink food ever imaginable and ate every single last crumb I bought and it didn't do anything but give me a big ole stomach ache."

"Hmm..... I HAVE AN IDEA!" Petunia exclaimed.

"What is it?" Alfred said, excitedly.

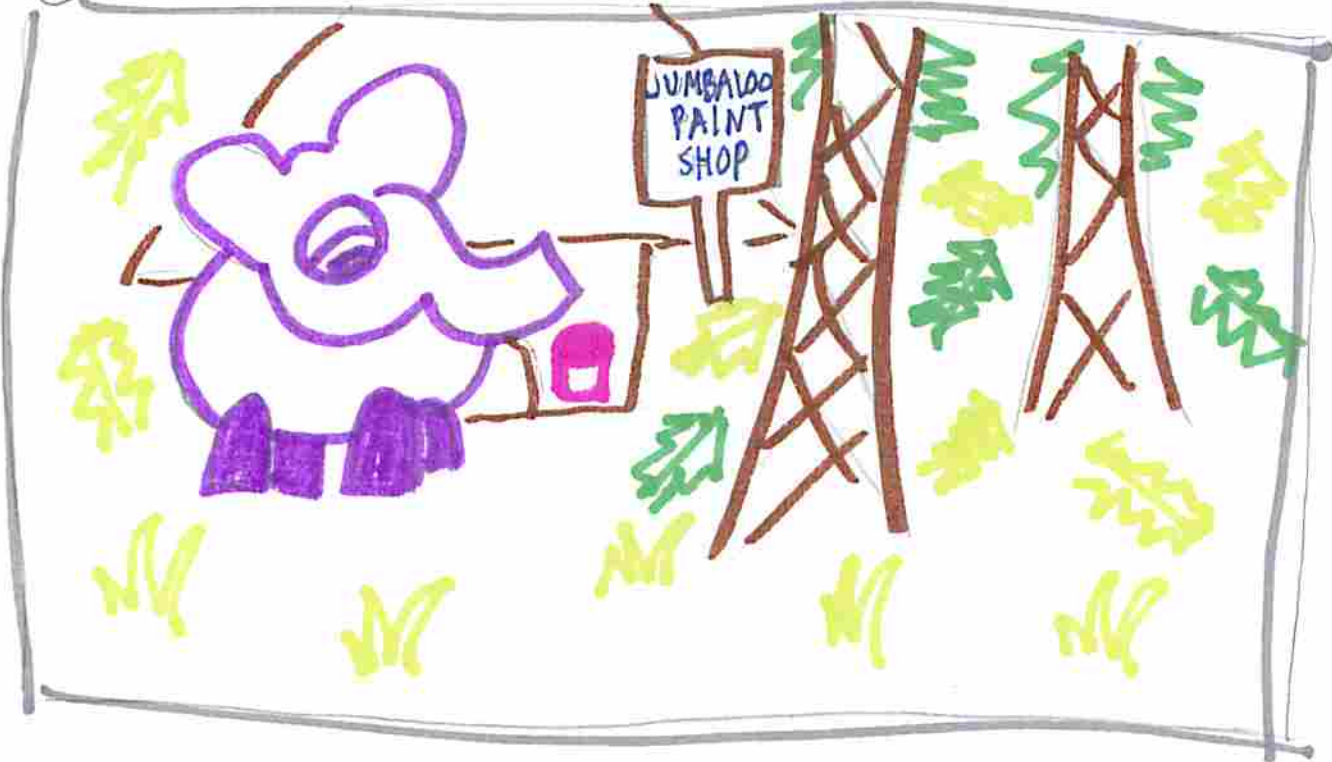
"We could paint you pink!"

"Oh, that just sounds like a wonderful plan. Thank you, Petunia!"

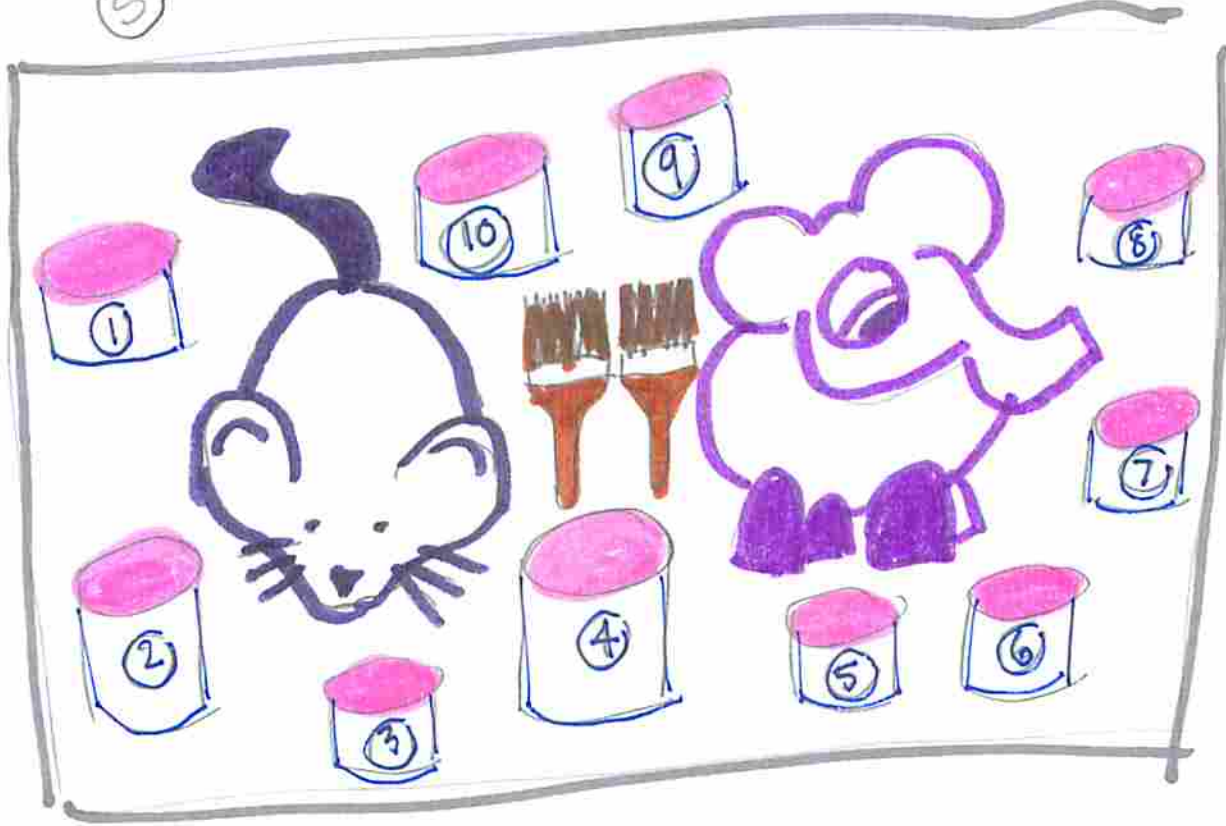
So, Petunia and Alfred went to the local Jumbaloo Paint Shop and bought ten gallons of bright pink paint and two "elephant sized" paintbrushes. Alfred couldn't wait to get home. He knew this idea would work.

Alfred and Petunia rushed back home and started painting right away. They dipped their large paintbrushes into the pink paint and painted away.

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Hours later, Alfred was all pink and couldn't be happier. He walked around his neighborhood feeling as if he was on top of the world smiling and waving to everyone. He loved being pink.

Alfred was feeling great. Everyone was complimenting him on his new color but then he walked by Mr. Owl's house.

Alfred was walking by Mr. Owl's house at the same time that Mr. Owl was watering his garden. The water sprayed all over Alfred's back and the pink paint ran down to Alfred's feet. Now half of his body was pink and the other half was purple.

Alfred rushed home. He was so embarrassed. He began to cry and on his way home, he ran into his friend Leonard the fox, whom had heard Alfred's crying.

"What's wrong, Alfred?" Leonard asked.

"Petunia and I painted my body all pink because I hate being a purple elephant, and I want to become a pink one. And then, while I was walking around the neighborhood, Mr. Owl turned on his sprinklers for the garden and it got all over my back and now I am half purple, half pink." Alfred said, still upset.

"Oh, I'm sorry, Alfred. But, it's okay we will fix it," Leonard said, sweetly.

"Really? How can we fix it?" Alfred said, with hope in his voice.

"Let me think for a minute here, Alfred." Leonard said, as he put on his thinking cap.

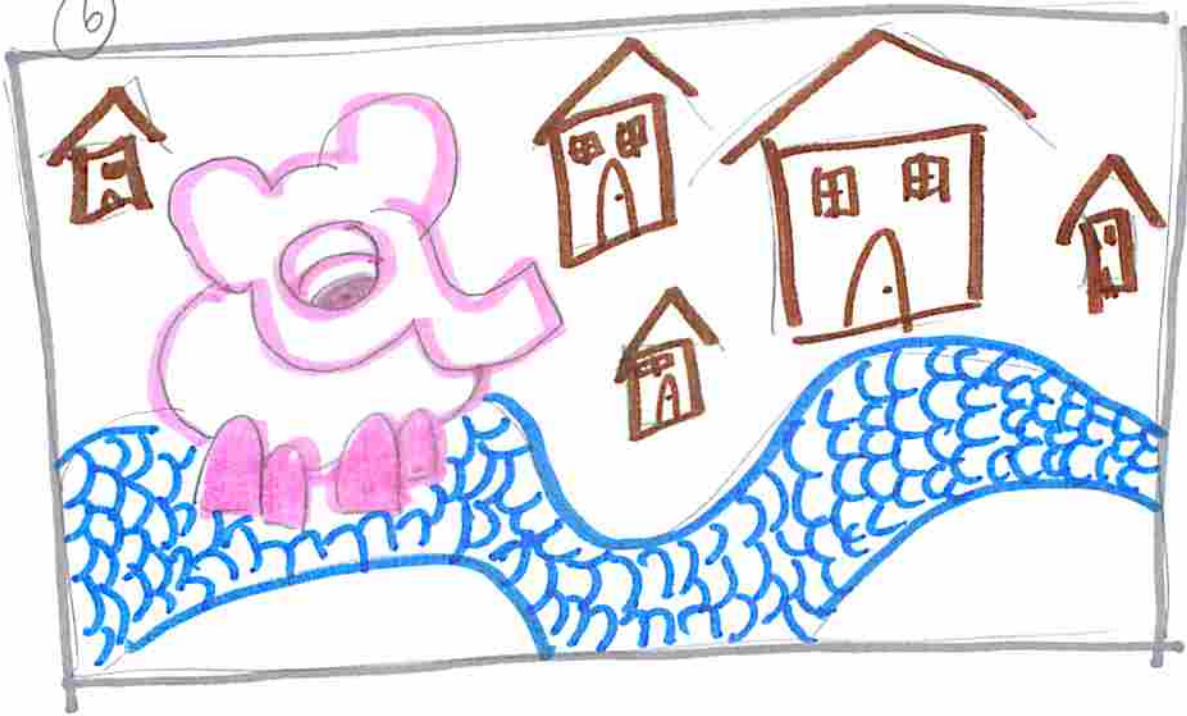
"I know!" Leonard said.

"What's your idea, Leonard?" said Alfred.

"We are going to wrap you in pink paper!" Leonard exclaimed.

Alfred got so excited as soon as he heard the idea.

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Leonard and Alfred start running to the local Jumbaloo Paper Store where they bought a hundred yards of bright pink wrapping paper. They hurried back to Alfred's hammock and started wrapping.

After a couple hours had passed, they were all done. Alfred looked at himself in the mirror and loved the way he looked. 'No one will ever know I was purple,' Alfred thought. Alfred thanked Leonard a million times and then Leonard decided he was going to go home because he was exhausted from his big day of wrapping.

"I'll walk you home," said Alfred.

Leonard thanked him and they started walking through the woods towards the Bushy Bushes when all of the sudden Alfred ran into a big branch and it ripped a big hole in his beautiful pink wrapping paper. Alfred was devastated and began to cry. He knew that if none of these ideas worked then no other ones would.

Leonard took a seat next to Alfred. "You know Alfred. I always thought you looked so much better purple then you do pink."

"Really?" Alfred said while looking up.

"Oh yeah definitely. Alfred you are beautiful as **YOU** and Petunia and I love you for who you are -- a purple elephant."

Petunia saw Alfred and Leonard from across the road and came over to comfort Alfred.

"What's wrong?" Petunia asked Alfred.

"I can never become pink."

"Good," Petunia said. "I like you so much more as purple."

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Alfred looked up at his friends and gave them big hugs. Alfred knew he was lucky to have friends like them and from then on Alfred never tried to be any color ever again. He loved being purple and loved that others loved him as purple.

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