Kanchha, the Rhino

Author: Shilpi Pradhan
Illustrator: Abin Shrestha
Translator: Shannon David
In a vast grassland, there lived a little rhino. His name was Kanchha. Kanchha was two years old and lived with his mother.

He loved to wander about the grassland.
His mother would often warn him, “Kanchha, there are a lot of bad things out there. Be careful, son. Always remember to leave your scent so that you can smell your way back home.”

He nodded his head. Kanchha understood, but it was hard for a little rhino to remember everything his mother told him.
One afternoon, as the sun was beating down on the grassland, Kanchha decided to cool himself with a mud bath. Lying in the mud, he flicked off flies with his ears.
Suddenly, he heard a strange noise. He twitched his ears to figure out where it was coming from. He had never heard such a sound before.
He jumped up from the mud and walked closer to the sound. He walked and walked, but he couldn't make out where the noise was coming from.
He looked around and realized that he had walked much farther than he thought. He remembered his mother’s words and turned around to walk back home.
Then, he heard the same sound again. He saw a giant python sliding towards him and it filled him with fear! He ran and hid behind the tall grasses.
He whispered to himself, “That python is going to eat me up. Ma, please save me!” He was very scared. He closed his eyes tightly and stayed very still. He waited and waited. Luckily, nothing happened.
Kanchha carefully peeked through the tall grasses. He saw the python swallowing a deer.

He breathed a sigh of relief.
It was getting dark and Kanchha knew it was time to go home. He turned around. He looked right. He looked left.
He tried to find his scent, but he couldn't smell it anywhere.
He ran round and round, but couldn't make out which direction he had come from. He remembered his mother’s words again. And he began to cry.
“Kanchha...! Kanchha...!” he heard someone calling his name. He twitched his ears. Someone was calling him! He jumped with joy and ran as fast as he could.
THUMP! Kanchha landed in a pit. Darkness surrounded him.
“Kanchha...! Kanchha...!” He heard his mother calling from above the pit. He felt like crying. “I’m sorry for going too far, Ma. I’m sorry!”

It was all he could say to his mother. “Don’t worry son, I’ll go get some help,” she promised him.
Kanchha looked up at the sky. He saw the moon shining brightly. Kanchha promised himself to be more careful next time.
The next morning, Kanchha woke up to find himself tied up with ropes. He could hear noises all around him. Kanchha was confused. He didn't know what was happening.
Kanchha tried to struggle free, but it only hurt so he stopped. After a while he felt himself being lifted. “Have I been captured?” he thought.
He found himself on the ground again. He heard all sorts of strange sounds. “Hurrah! Woohoo!” He could hear claps and whistles. Blinded by bright flashes of light, he could barely see anything clearly.
There were hundreds of humans around him. They held up posters with a rhino’s photograph. Some of them had even pasted a rhino’s photograph on their caps.
Some rode on elephants. Some were driving jeeps. And some were on foot. As he got closer they were all smiling at him, but he recognized no one.

He was scared. “Who are they? Why are they here? What are they going to do to me?” he thought.
One of the humans came towards him and touched him gently. Slowly, he turned Kanchha’s head towards the jungle.

Kanchha saw his mother waiting for him behind the trees. These humans had not captured him, they had saved him!
Kanchha ran as fast as he could to his mother. He was safe again. He would never wander so far without leaving his scent ever again.
Story Attribution:
This story: Kanchha, the Rhino is translated by Shannon David. The © for this translation lies with Room to Read, 2007. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Based on Original story: 'कांच्छा झील', by Shilpi Pradhan. © Room to Read, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:
This story 'Kanchha the Rhino' has been published on StoryWeaver by Room to Read.

Images Attributions:

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions

Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Images Attributions:
This book was made possible by Pratham Books' StoryWeaver platform. Content under Creative Commons licenses can be downloaded, translated and can even be used to create new stories - provided you give appropriate credit, and indicate if changes were made. To know more about this, and the full terms of use and attribution, please visit the following link.

Images Attributions:
Page 23: A forest official helps a rhino by Abin Shrestha © Room to Read, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 24: A baby rhino reunites with its mother, by Abin Shrestha © Room to Read, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions

Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Kanchha, the Rhino
(English)

This is the story of a little rhino who lives in a big grassland. He loves to explore, but one day he strays too far from his mother and gets lost. Read on to find out how he gets out of trouble.

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.

Storyweaver

Pratham Books goes digital to weave a whole new chapter in the realm of multilingual children's stories. Knitting together children, authors, illustrators and publishers. Folding in teachers, and translators. To create a rich fabric of openly licensed multilingual stories for the children of India and the world. Our unique online platform, StoryWeaver, is a playground where children, parents, teachers and librarians can get creative. Come, start weaving today, and help us get a book in every child's hand!
Are you looking for more great free books like this one?

FREE KIDS BOOKS
https://www.freekidsbooks.org

Preschool, early grades, picture books, learning to read, early chapter books, middle grade, young adult

Always Free – Always will be!

This book was shared online by Free Kids Books at https://www.freekidsbooks.org in terms of the creative commons license provided by the publisher or author.

Legal Note: This book is in CREATIVE COMMONS - Awesome!! That means you can share, reuse it, and in some cases republish it, but only in accordance with the terms of the applicable license (not all CCs are equal!), attribution must be provided, and any resulting work must be released in the same manner.

Please reach out and contact us if you want more information: https://www.freekidsbooks.org/about

This page is added for identification purposes.