

LEVEL 2.0

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## THE UPSIDE DOWN ELEPHANT

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What can Nilu do when he finds an I elephant that is upside down? Monitor your reading to make sure each part of the story makes sense.

Nilu (NEE-loo) looked out at the sun. He had the whole day to play in the forest! The forest was his favorite place. He jumped out of bed. After breakfast, Nilu walked quickly through his neighborhood. He hoped his little sister wouldn't follow him. Soon Nilu was at the forest. He looked for the drawings he had made in the dirt last week. They were gone. Then he heard a noise. Had Nilu's little sister come after him? She couldn't have. There was no place for her to hide. Then Nilu saw the big

ditch nearby. Nilu walked to the side of the ditch. Suddenly he jumped back. There was an elephant in the ditch! The elephant was upside down! The elephant didn't look very happy. Now and then, it moved its big legs in the air. Nilu ran home to tell his parents.

Soon everybody in the neighborhood knew about the elephant. Many people went with Nilu back to the ditch. The elephant was still there. It was still upside down. Uncle Shardul (Shar-DOOL) looked worried. "An elephant needs to stand on its feet or it will die," he said. "We'll have to pull him out " "But how?" cried Nilu. No one seemed to know. Suddenly Mr. Ghatak (Gah-TACK) smiled :I have an idea!: he said. :I'll be back. Mr. Ghatak came back. He was in a small truck with a crane

and three strong chains. :Now we can pull the elephant out,: he said. Mr. Ghatak put one of the chains around elephant. Nilu held his breath as Mr. Gh: raised the crane. Snap! The chain broke. Everyone sighed" "Don't worry," said Mr. Ghatak." It'll work this time, for sure!" He put another chain around the elephant. Again, Nilu held his breath. Snap! The second chain broke. Mr. Ghatak reached for the third chain. "That won't work either, thought Nilu. "We need to try something else." Nilu jumped into the Illuddy ditch. He pushed the elephant as hard as he could. Other people jumped ill too. Very slowly, they pushed the elephant out. The elephant stood up. Everybody cheered Nilu's sister asked,

"Where will the elephant go?" Deep into the forest," said Nilu. "We'll take him.

Everybody walked the elephant home. Nilu felt happy. "I hope we'll see him again," Nilu joked "Right side up, next time!"