



Sleeping Tiger

written and illustrated
by Vasanti Unka

Characters

TIGER

RABBIT

ELEPHANT

MONKEY

SNAKE

FROG

SCENE: Early in the morning.

TIGER is yawning as he plods slowly through the jungle.

TIGER (yawning). I'm so tired and hungry! I've been hunting all night, but I haven't found a thing to eat. I need to get some rest before I go hunting again. Ahh, here's the perfect spot. I'll just curl up in this long, soft grass. Yawn!

TIGER snuggles down in the grass and falls asleep. A moment later, RABBIT comes hopping along.

RABBIT. Hop, hop, hoppity hop. I'm off to find some breakfast berries. My babies are very hungry. Hop, hop, hoppity ... oops! A tiger! I need to get out of here before I become someone's breakfast! Hippity, hoppity, hop – I'm off!

A moment later, ELEPHANT comes stomping along, shaking the ground with every stomp.

ELEPHANT. Stomp, stomp, thump, thump! How I love to shake the ground! I'm so big, and I'm so loud! Stomp, stomp, thump ... uh-oh! A tiger! Maybe I should not be so loud – or so big. Maybe I should just disappear. Tip-toe, tip-toe, tippity-toe – away I go!

ELEPHANT tiptoes away.



A moment later, MONKEY comes swinging down on a vine.

MONKEY. La, la, lay, lay, la. It's a perfect day for singing while I'm swinging on a vine. La, la, lay, lay ... laah! A tiger! Time to go. The singing can wait till lay, lay ... later. I'm swinging far away from here. Bye, bye. Time to go. Bye, bye.

*MONKEY swings back into the trees.
A moment later, SNAKE comes sliding along.*

SNAKE. Hiss-s-s, hiss-s-s, s-s-slither, s-s-slither. I'm s-s-starving. I need s-s-something s-s-sweet to eat. S-s-something that's-s-s eas-s-sy to s-s-swallow. Hiss-s-s, hiss-s-s, s-s-slither ... eek! A tiger! I need to s-s-sneak away, before I'm the one who gets-s-s s-s-swallowed! S-s-slither, s-s-slither - I'm off!

SNAKE slithers away up a tree. A moment later, FROG comes jumping along.



FROG. Flip, flop, flippity flop. Hip, hop, hippity, hop. I'm looking for some fun today. Flip, flop, flip, flop ... Aha! A tiger! A **sleeping** tiger. A scruffy, **old** sleeping tiger. That tiger is so old and tired he won't wake up. Let the fun begin!

FROG prances and dances round the sleeping tiger. SNAKE is watching FROG from high up in the tree.

SNAKE. S-s-silly Frog. What is-s-s he doing?

FROG (standing in front of TIGER and pulling funny faces). Ha, ha, hee, hee! Sleeping tiger can't see me! Tired old tiger, you're fast asleep!

TIGER snores.

FROG (clapping his hands together). Ha, ha, hee, hee! You can't see me! You can't hear me! Silly old sleeping tiger! Silly old **snoring** tiger!



MONKEY *is also watching* FROG.

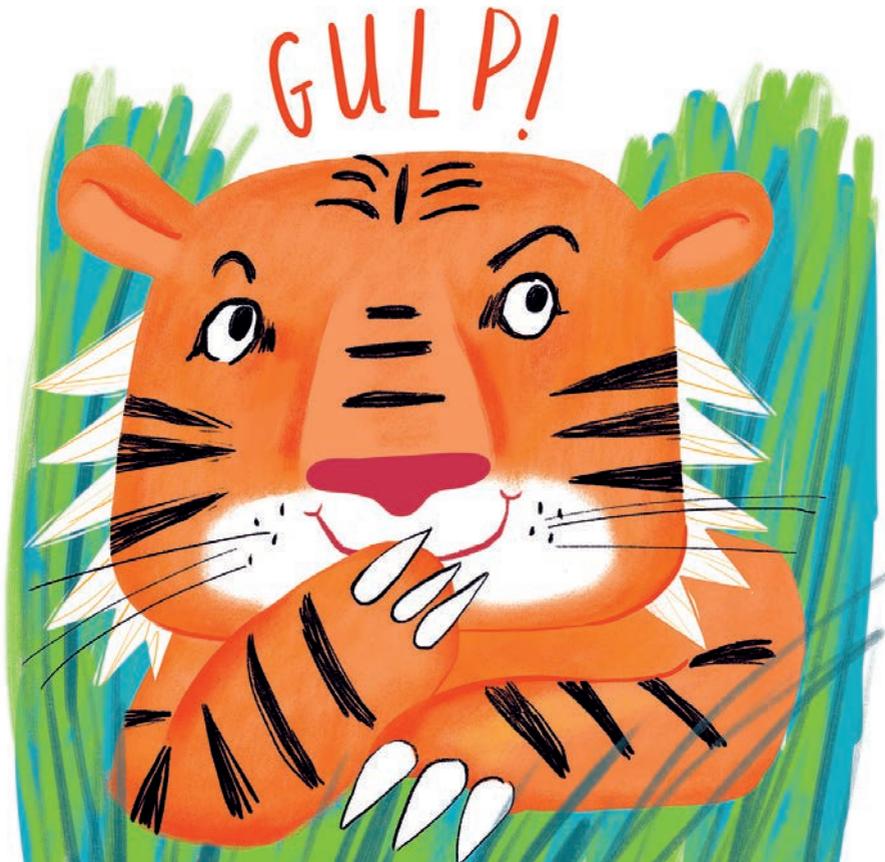
MONKEY. Frog, get away from there! Go and play your silly games somewhere else.

FROG *ignores* MONKEY *and jumps closer to* TIGER.

FROG. Ha, ha, hee, hee. Tired old tiger. I can touch your paw. I can tug your whisker. I can even tickle your nose!

FROG *reaches out to tickle* TIGER's nose.

TIGER (*gobbling up* FROG). **GULP!** That was a nice breakfast! Perfect for a tired old tiger like me! Yum-yum, yumyummy-yum – **ROAR!**



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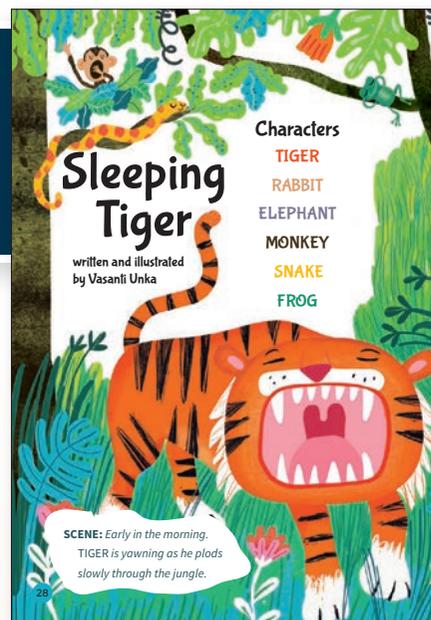
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