

Who's the Real Hero?

A STORY BY ARKEDELIC



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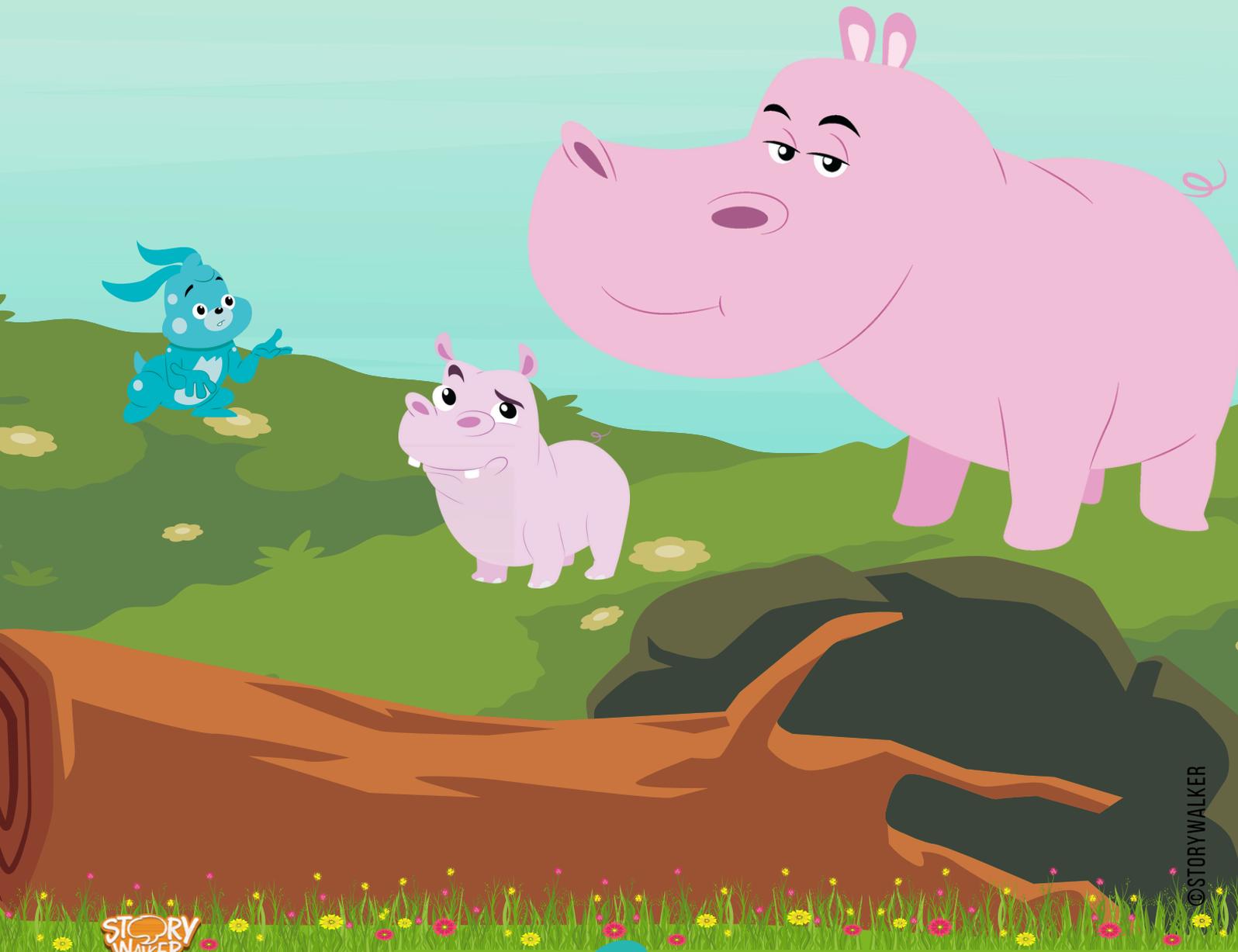
One breezy morning in Booshkata,
the river path was blocked.

A heavy log had rolled down the slope and landed right
across the trail, stopping everyone's morning stroll.

“What do we do?” cried Zeldon, his ears twitching nervously.

“Guess we wait?” shrugged Max.

But Mombino — big, gentle, wise Mombino — did not wait.



She examined the log with calm, watchful eyes.

She nudged it, walked around it, then pushed her strong shoulder into it — steady, quiet, and determined.

THUD-ROLL-SPLASH!

The log floated off downstream.

“Whoa!” Danny’s jaw nearly dropped to his knees.
“That was... legendary!”

From that moment, Danny decided he wanted to be exactly like Mombino. Not just a little like her. Exactly.



The next morning, Danny came stomping down the jungle path.

Stomp. Stomp. Stomp.

He wiggled his chin like Mombino.

He narrowed his eyes like Mombino.

He even cleared his throat in a deep rumble like Mombino.

“Why are you walking like you’ve got coconuts tied to your feet?” Kimaya asked, amused.



“I’m not Danny anymore,” he announced.
“I’m Mini-Mombino!”

Zeldon giggled. “You look like you’re stuck in slow motion!”

“Shhh,” Danny said. “Great heroes don’t hurry.
They just... glimmer with wisdom.”

Later that day, the friends spotted a termite hill that had collapsed, spilling soil all over the path to the mango patch.

“Stand back, everyone!” Danny puffed up his chest.
“I shall move this hill. For I am... Mini Mombino!”





He squinted. He stomped around the mound twice.

He tried to push the mound with his tiny bonobo shoulder.
Nothing.

“Maybe use a stick?” suggested Milo.

“Quiet,” Danny said. “Mombino doesn’t need sticks.”

He pushed again. His shoulder slipped.
Dust puffed into his face.

Finally, Danny stood up and declared,
“The hill shall be moved... by someone else.”

Zeldon snorted with laughter. “Some hero you are!”

Kimaya put a gentle hand on Danny’s back.

“You know, Mombino isn’t a hero just because she looks serious or pushes logs.

She’s a hero because she notices, plans, and keeps trying. You’re copying the outside things but not the inside things.”

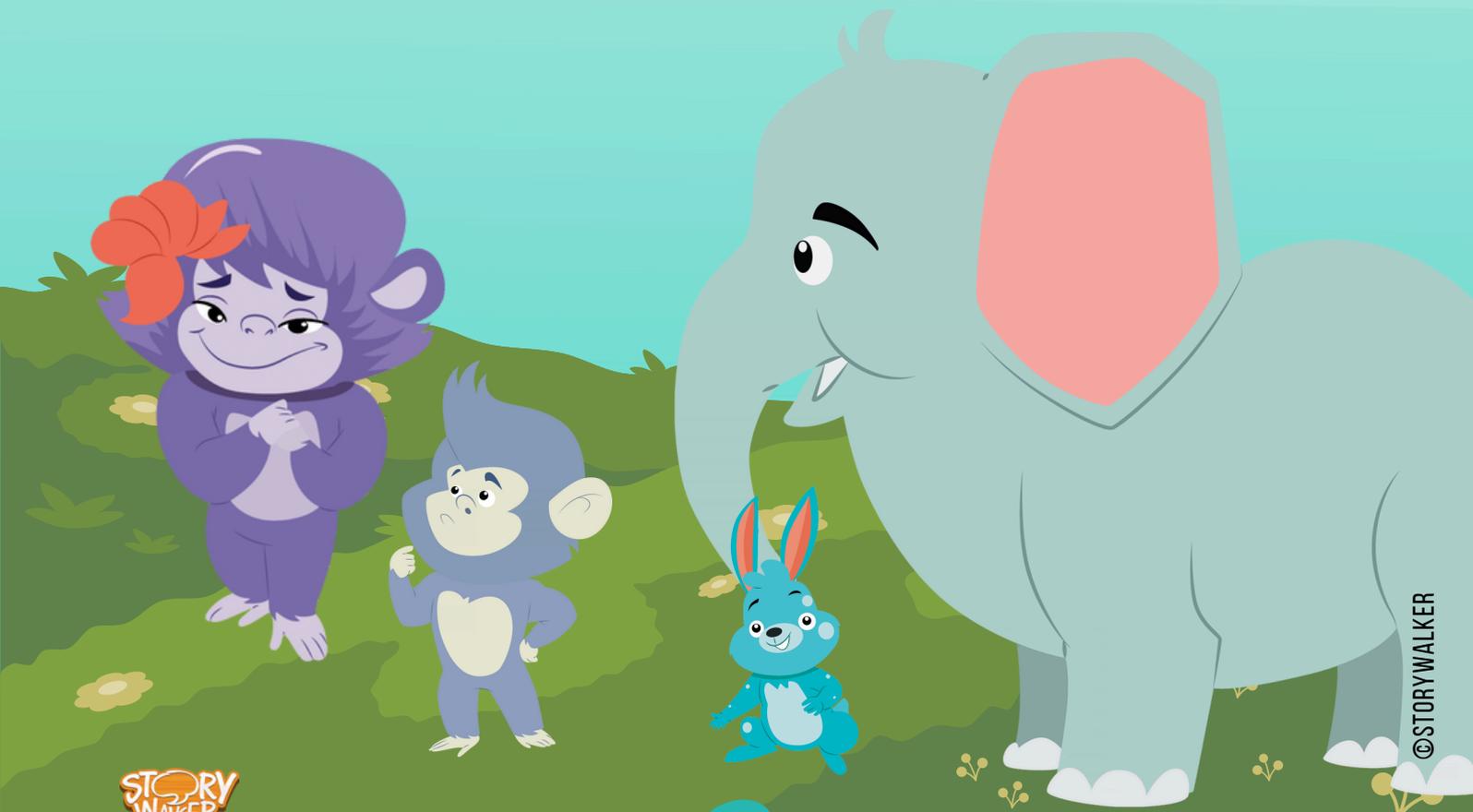
Danny frowned. “You mean I’m copying her wrong?”

“Not wrong,” Kimaya said kindly.
“Just... the shiny bits, not the real bits.”

Danny sat for a while, thinking.

Then he stood up. “Okay. New plan.
I’ll do this the Danny way.

Milo, can you help me scoop the dirt into piles?
Zeldon, can you kick the twigs out of the way?”



“You did well,” Mombino said with a warm smile.

“You didn’t need to be me. You needed to be you.”

Danny grinned. “I guess the real hero thing is to think first, right? Not just squint and stomp?”

“Exactly,” Mombino said.
“Though the squinting was quite funny.”

The friends burst into a hearty laugh — even Danny, who squinted one last time just to make them all giggle.

— *THE END* —



ACTIVITY

My Hero's Hat

YOU'LL NEED:

- A sheet of paper or a thin card
- Crayons, markers, or coloured pencils
- Tape or glue
- Scissors (with an adult's help)
- Stickers or small decorations (optional)

HOW TO DO IT:

1. Cut the paper into a strip long enough to fit around your child's head.
2. Let your child decorate it to make a "Hero's Hat" — they can draw patterns, colours, or symbols that remind them of someone they admire.
3. On one side of the hat, help them draw or write the outside things they notice about their hero (like clothes, smile, or a gesture).



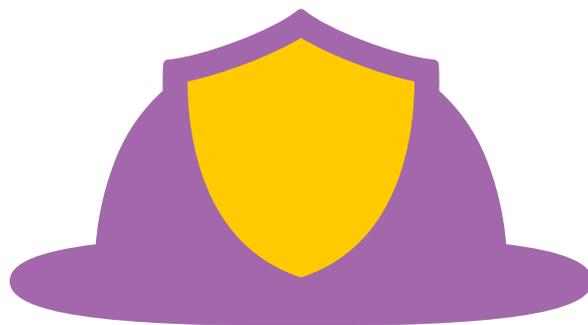
ACTIVITY

My Hero's Hat

4. On the other side, draw or write the inside things — qualities like kindness, patience, or problem-solving.
5. Wear the hat and take turns giving “hero actions” — but only ones that use the inside things written on the hat.

WHAT IT BUILDS:

This activity helps children understand the difference between copying someone's looks or style and learning from their values and actions. It encourages them to see that being a hero is about what's inside, not just what's on the outside.



5 FUN FACTS

About Copying in Nature



Dolphin Hunting Lessons

Young dolphins learn to hunt by copying older dolphins' movements — like chasing fish into tight circles. Sometimes, they even learn “tricks” unique to their family group.

Imagine if your family had a special way to catch dinner that only you knew!

Baby Elephants Copy Everything

Baby elephants watch older elephants closely to learn how to use their trunks, find water, and greet each other. At first, they're clumsy — even sucking their trunks like thumbs.

Imagine having a giant arm-nose you had to practice using!



Lion Cubs on the Watch

Lion cubs follow the lead of lionesses during hunts, copying their crouch and pounce. It's practice for when they're old enough to hunt on their own.

Imagine playing “follow the leader” but with real-life leaping and chasing!

5 FUN FACTS

About Copying in Nature



Parrots Pick Up Calls

Many parrots learn flock calls by copying the exact sounds older birds make. It helps them belong to their group and stay safe in the wild. Imagine learning a secret password so your friends always know it's you.

Chimpanzee Tool School

Young chimpanzees learn to crack nuts by copying how adults use stones as hammers. It can take years to get it right! Imagine having to practice every day just to open your snack.



COMPLETE THE STORY

The Shell That Could Sing

Luma the little river otter found a shell that made a low, humming sound when she blew across it. “This,” she declared, “is my Magic Shell of Songs!”

She carried it everywhere, copying the way her big cousin Rivo — the best singer in the river — tilted his head and swayed when he sang.

Luma hummed just like him, even when the shell stayed silent.

One afternoon, a frog asked her to play a song for a turtle’s birthday. Luma tried Rivo’s swaying, his notes, even his pauses... but no sound came from the shell.

Luma stared at the water, wondering if she’d ever make music like her cousin. Then she noticed the ripples around the shell — they moved differently when she tilted it.

Now your child completes the story



- What happens next?
- Does Luma find her own way to make the shell sing?
- Does she make a new kind of music that isn’t like Rivo’s at all?
- Or does she discover a sound only she can play?



See you next Monday
with another interesting story!

Got feedback or a suggestion? We would love to hear it!
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