

Vocabulary Words

1. sneeze (verb) /sniz/ to send air out from the nose and mouth in an explosive way that you cannot control
Example: I don't know why, but I couldn't stop sneezing.
2. flap (verb) /flæp/ to wave something, especially wings when or as if flying
Example: A small bird flapped its wings furiously and flew off.
3. giggle (verb) /'gɪg.əl/ to laugh repeatedly in a quiet but uncontrolled way, often at something silly or rude or when you are nervous
Example: Stop that giggling in the back row!
4. tease (verb) /ti:z/ to laugh at someone or say unkind things about them, either because you are joking or because you want to upset that person
Example: I used to hate being teased about my red hair when I was at school.
5. wagon (noun) /'wæg.ən/ a vehicle with four wheels, usually pulled by horses or oxen, used for transporting heavy goods, especially in the past:
Example: The first white settlers journeyed across America in covered wagons.
6. ignore (verb) /ɪg'nɔ:r/ to intentionally not listen or give attention to
Example: She can be really irritating but I try to ignore her.
7. ringmaster (noun) /'rɪŋ,mæs.tə/ the person who introduces the performers at a circus
Example: He played the role of the ringmaster in the movie The Greatest Showman.
8. exclaim (Verb) to say or shout something suddenly because of surprise, fear, pleasure, etc.
Example: "I found the answer," the scientist exclaimed.
9. springboard (noun) /'sprɪŋ.bɔ:rd/ a board that can bend, helping people to jump higher when jumping or diving into a swimming pool or when doing gymnastics
Example: The gymnast performed her stunt from the springboard.
10. knock /nɔ:k/ (verb) to hit, especially forcefully, and cause to move or fall
Example: He accidentally knocked the vase off the table.
11. lullaby (noun) /'lʌl.ə.baɪ/ a quiet song that is sung to children to help them go to sleep
Example: The mother sang a lullaby to her kid and fell asleep.
12. wonder (verb) /'wʌn.də/ to ask yourself questions or express a wish to know about something
Example: He's starting to wonder whether he did the right thing in accepting this job.
13. whisper (verb) /'wɪs.pə/ to speak very quietly, using the breath but not the voice, so that only the person close to you can hear you
Example: She leaned over and whispered something in his ear.
14. soar (verb) /sɔ:r/ (of a bird or aircraft) to rise high in the air while flying without moving the wings or using power
Example: She watched the gliders soaring effortlessly above her.
15. cliff (noun) /klɪf/ a high area of rock with a very steep side, often on a coast
Example: Keep away from the edge of the cliff - you might fall.
16. flock (verb) /flɒ:k/ to move or come together in large numbers
Example: Hundreds of people flocked to the game.

Audio clip: [Dumbo.mp3](#)

Dumbo

It was morning at the circus.
Hopeful mothers looked up as storks flew overhead.
Each one carrying a bundle holding a baby animal.
Mrs. Jumbo sighed as she watched the happy mothers with their babies.
"Oh dear, I hope there will be a bundle for me!" she thought.
At long last, a stork flew into Mrs. Jumbo's railway car with a large bundle-
it was a baby elephant.



Mrs. Jumbo, the elephant sneezed and out flapped from the baby elephant
two huge ears.

Mrs. Jumbo wanted to call the baby elephant Jumbo Junior.

The other elephants began to giggle.

"Dumbo!" one of them said.

But Mrs. Jumbo didn't care what the other elephants thought.

She loved her baby, big ears and all.

The next day, a group of boys came by the circus tent.

They laughed at Dumbo and teased him.

"Look at his ears!" one of them cried.

Mrs. Jumbo tried to protect her baby.

She lifted the boy away from Dumbo.

"Help! Help!" he cried.

The circus keepers raced in.

Soon Mrs. Jumbo was locked in the prison wagon.

From then on, the other elephants ignored poor Dumbo.
They even turned their backs on him.
Dumbo felt alone and heartbroken until Timothy Mouse found him.
He liked Dumbo.
At last, Dumbo had a friend!
Timothy wanted to help his new friend.
"All we've got to do is build you an act," the mouse explained.
"Make you a star!"

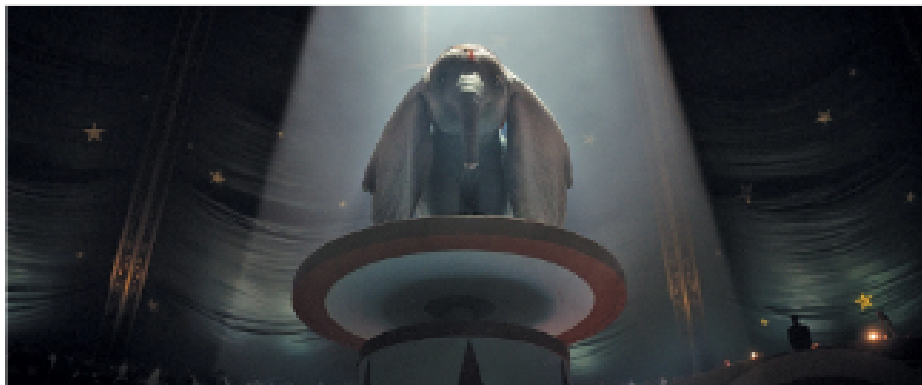


Just then they heard the ringmaster talking.
"I have an idea!" he exclaimed. "A big pyramid of elephants."
He wanted Dumbo to be the very top elephant of the pyramid. The star!
Finally, the big moment came.
But when Dumbo ran down the springboard- he tripped over his flapping ears!
He crashed into the elephants, knocking them in every direction.
Now the elephants were angrier than ever with Dumbo.
But the ringmaster had one more idea.

The next day, Dumbo was put in the clown act.
Being a clown made Dumbo sad.
The other clowns teased him and Dumbo felt lonelier than ever.
"We'll go and see your mother," said Timothy to cheer up Dumbo.
Dumbo and his mother were overjoyed to see each other.
Mrs. Jumbo put her trunk through the bars of her cage
and cuddled her son, singing a lullaby.
But all too soon it was time for Dumbo to go.



That night, Dumbo dreamed he was a star- flying through the air!
The next thing Dumbo and Timothy knew, it was morning.
When they opened their eyes, they saw a group of crows looking at them.
They were high up in a tree!
Timothy and Dumbo wondered how they had gotten there.
"Maybe you flew up!" joked one of the crows.
"Yes, that's it!" cried Timothy.
"Dumbo, you flew! Your ears- they're perfect wings!"
The little elephant was surprised.
He couldn't really fly- could he?
Timothy told Dumbo to believe in himself.
One of the crows gave Timothy an ordinary feather and whispered,
"Use the magic feather!"
Holding the feather in his trunk, Dumbo soared from the edge of a cliff- he was flying!



That night at the circus, Dumbo stood at the top of a building.
He didn't feel frightened.
Now that he had the magic feather, he knew he could fly down safely.
"Okay," he said. "Take off!"
Just as the little elephant leaped into the air, he dropped the feather-
and Dumbo began to fall.
"Open those ears!" Timothy cried. "You can fly! You can!"
Dumbo took a deep breath and began to flap his ears as quickly as he could.
Suddenly, Dumbo was flying.



He didn't need that feather at all!
The ringmaster was amazed!
He watched Dumbo swoop from the building and soar past the cheering crowds.
Dumbo was a star!
Before long, Dumbo was famous all around the world, just as Timothy said he would be!
The crowd flocked to the circus to see 'Dumbo, the Amazing Flying Elephant'.
The ringmaster released Dumbo's mother and gave her a special train car of her own.
And Dumbo and his mother were very happy. And they lived happily ever after.

Discussion

1. Which of the characters did you like best? Why?
2. What feelings did you experience in this movie? Why?
3. Why did everyone laugh at Dumbo?
4. Is it difficult or challenging to be different?
5. Why did people come to see Dumbo as special?
6. Is it important to be brave? Why or why not?
7. How can people be brave?
8. Is Timothy a good friend?