



Photo for FIA Lesson #1: Elephants at the Waterhole at the *Mwalugange* Sanctuary

The Setting for Lesson #1, The Unity Story, is the *Mwalugange* Elephant Sanctuary. What an incredible place! We saw elephants far away and also up close. I'll always remember sitting down for breakfast on our first morning there and watching the elephants come down to the watering hole. To me, it seemed as if they waited for their guests to get settled before beginning their day. They were gracious hosts! Below is a photo I took of the elephants at the waterhole.



Visit the Website of the *Mwalugange* Elephant Sanctuary: elesanctuary.org

FIA Lessons by Lonnetta M. Gaines written for the AACRC/African American Cultural Resource Center
Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Library Website: BettyJJohnsonFriends.org

Ask for *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* at your library or purchase the book at:

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=ISBN+9780979541407&ref=nb_sb_noss



Lesson #1 – Reading The Unity Story: “Elephants at the Waterhole”

pp. 13-23, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* by Lonnetta M. Gaines

A Saying to Remember for The Unity Story
I am one with the world. I cherish and care for the earth.

AUTHOR’S NOTES

Notice that every story begins with a Saying to Remember. That’s because I wanted to distill the key message of the story and the *KWANZAA* Principle into one or two simple sentences. Repeat the Saying to Remember, write it down, and share it with others. The Saying to Remember for the Unity Story reminds us of the importance of caring for Mother Earth in ways big and small. Look at the list of Real World Tasks on page 23 in *Fia and the Butterfly* for a starter list of ideas. Now – to the story!

The *setting* for The Unity Story is the *Mwaluganje* Elephant Sanctuary which I actually visited in 1999. It’s one of my favorite places in Kenya, and it’s still there! (See the website: elesanctuary.org) When our guide drove us to the Sanctuary, he told us that elephants had learned not to trust people because uncaring people hunt them and kill them in order to sell their ivory tusks. If elephants got into the city, they were dangerous because they had learned that people were their enemies. In order to help address this problem, the government of Kenya created the *Mwaluganje* Elephant Sanctuary, a conservation area for the elephants and a camp and viewing area for visitors. So, I put the *Mwaluganje* Elephant Sanctuary into my story. Fia’s cloud floats over the Sanctuary, and when she looks at it, she’s surprised to see that the *Mwaluganje* camp looks like a forest, not like the jungles that she had seen on TV on Saturday mornings. Fia’s lessons are just beginning; and so were mine!

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While visiting the camp, one morning, I saw a group of elephants approaching the watering hole – but they wouldn't come down the path until they received a welcoming wave of the trunk from an elephant that was already there – how polite! I mentioned this awesome experience to one of the guides at the viewing area, and he told me another story of elephants approaching the watering hole – this one quite dramatic! I share both of these waterhole stories in *The Unity Story*: “Elephants at the Waterhole.”

Be on the lookout for Fia's vocabulary words from school in this story and throughout *Fia and the Butterfly* as well. Fia loves new words and wishes that she could see and feel her school words and not just read about them. Well – that wish comes true for her, beginning at the *Mwalugane* Elephant Sanctuary. By the way, “sanctuary” is one of Fia's vocabulary words.

Play with more of Fia's vocabulary words in FIA Activity #1. Enjoy!!!

Extra Credit (smile). Answer the twelve questions at the end of the story (pp 20 & 21). Complete the Character Development Activities (pp 22 and 23).



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

FIA Activity #1 – The Unity Story, Vocabulary Review

Directions: Use the five words below to fill in the blanks in the story on this page. All of these words are in *Fia and the Butterfly*, *The Unity Story: “Elephants at the Waterhole.”* Hint: Think about the story and look at the words that come before the blanks for help. This practice is called using *context clues*. Note: The words are not in order, so, you’ll have to put on your thinking cap!

exuberant sanctuary serene amazement bulky

A STORY FOR VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Fia looked down in wonder and _____ at the forest below.

“It looks so peaceful and _____” she whispered. Fia watched

as the elephants gracefully moved their gigantically _____ bodies

and she smiled. She knew that all was well. “Even when the elephants

looked like they were going to fight one day, they didn’t,” she said.

“Instead, they intertwined their trunks in a joyously _____

hug. This is a safe place. It’s truly a _____.” Fia felt content.



Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY: FIA Activity #1 – The Unity Story Vocabulary Review

Directions: Use the five words below to fill in the blanks in the story on this page. All of these words are in *Fia and the Butterfly*, The Unity Story: “Elephants at the Waterhole.” Hint: Think about the story and look at the words that come before the blanks for help. This practice is called using *context clues*. Note: The words are not in order, so, you’ll have to put on your thinking cap!

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A STORY FOR VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Fia looked down in wonder and **amazement** at the forest below.

“It looks so peaceful and **serene** she whispered. Fia watched

as the elephants gracefully moved their gigantically **bulky** bodies

and she smiled. She knew that all was well. “Even when the elephants

looked like they were going to fight one day, they didn’t,” she said.

“Instead, they intertwined their trunks in a joyously **exuberant**

hug. This is a safe place. It’s truly a **sanctuary**.” Fia felt content.