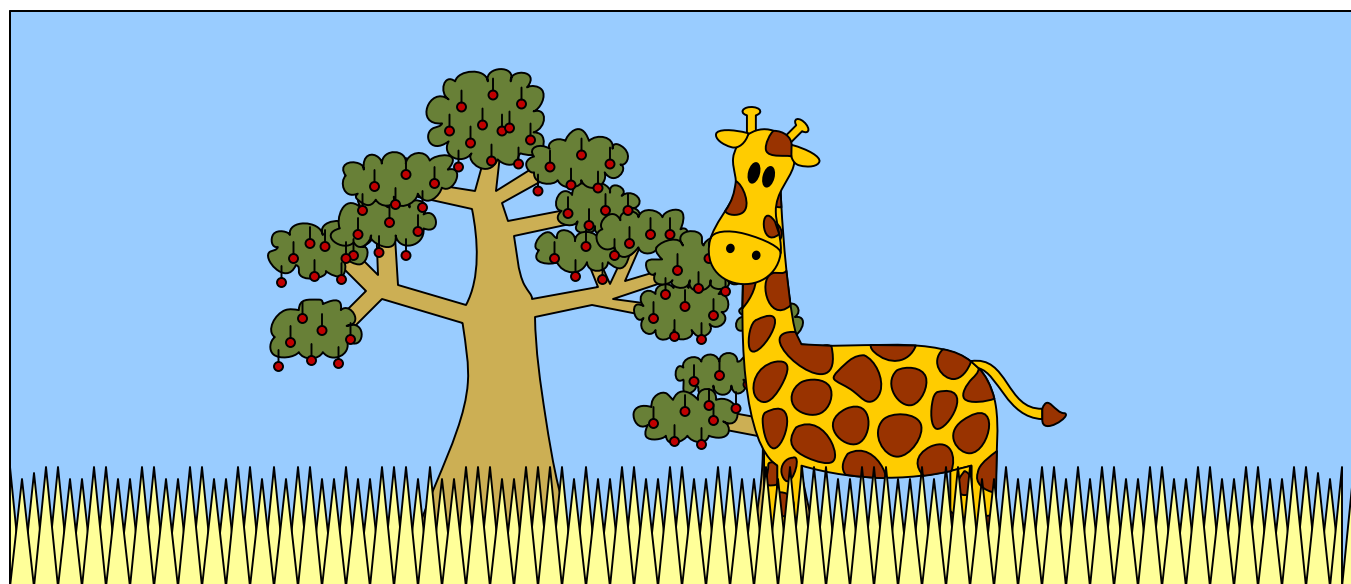


Raffee Sees Ahead

Written by Roy Pool

Illustrated by Roy Pool and Jennifer Cheatham

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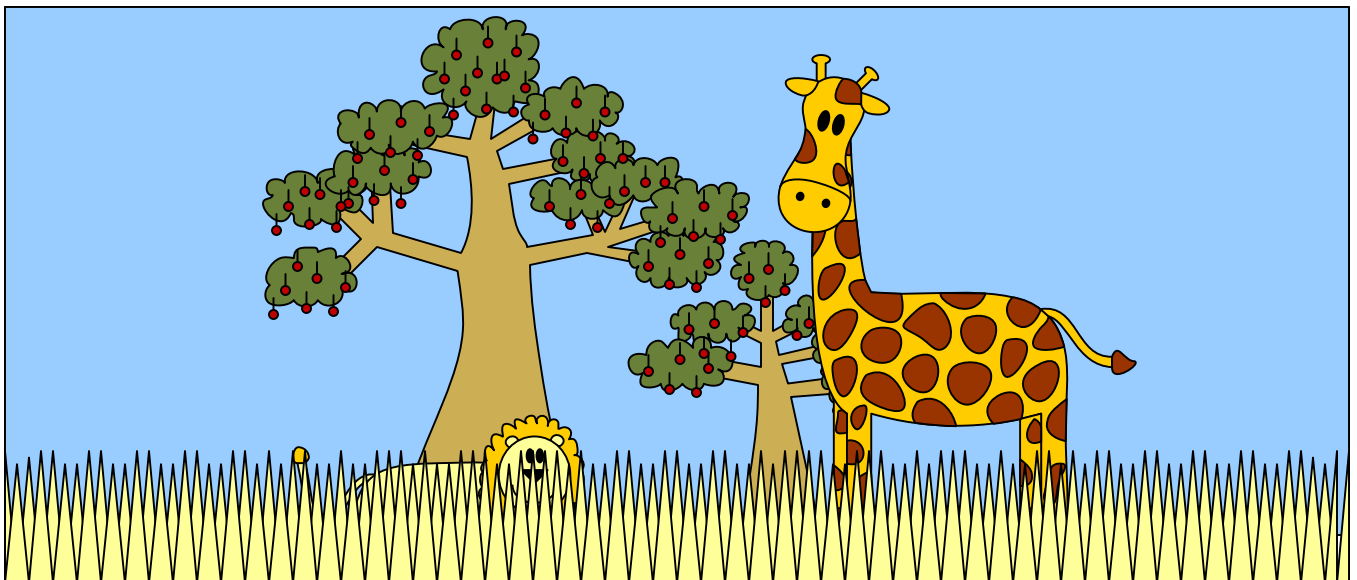
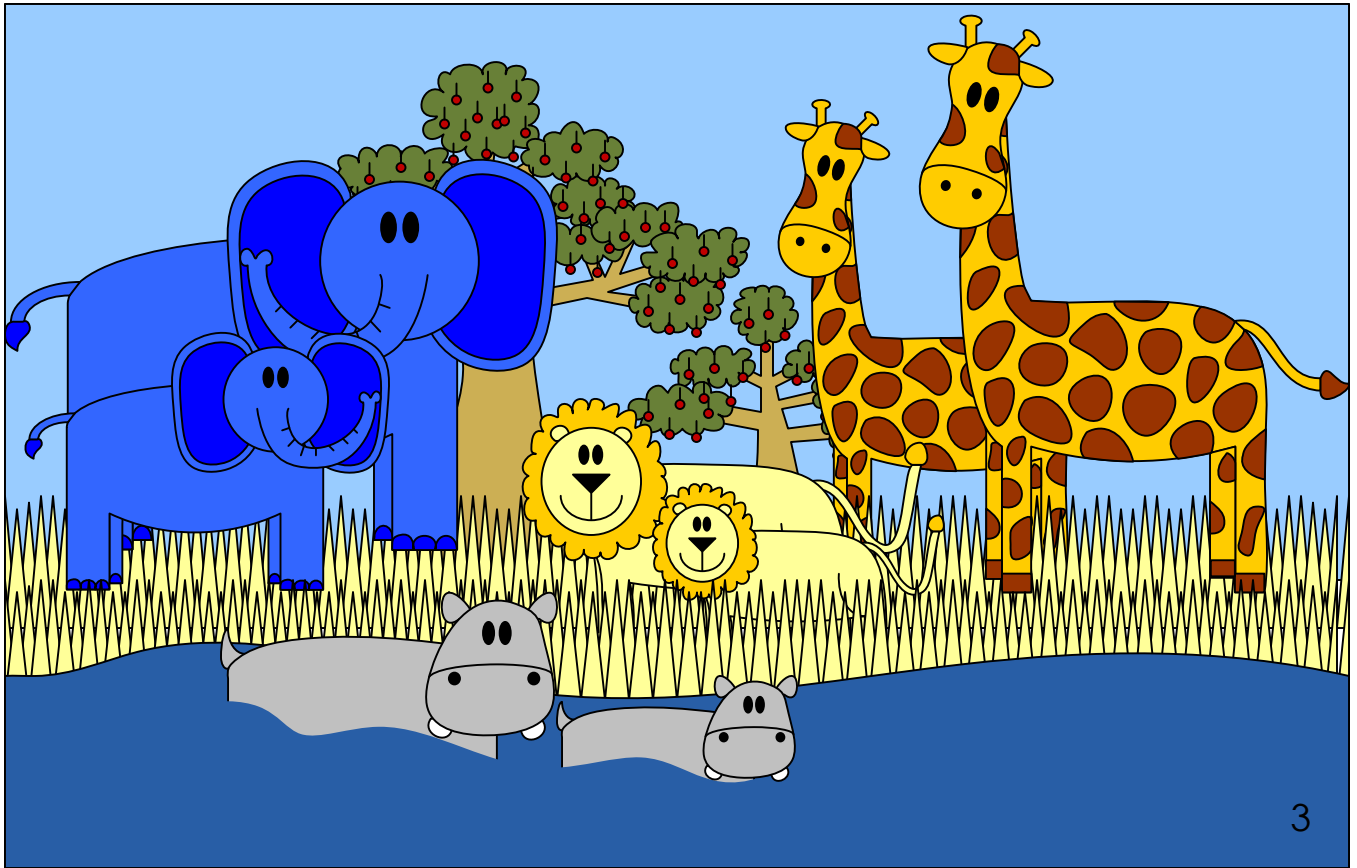
Raffee Sees Ahead

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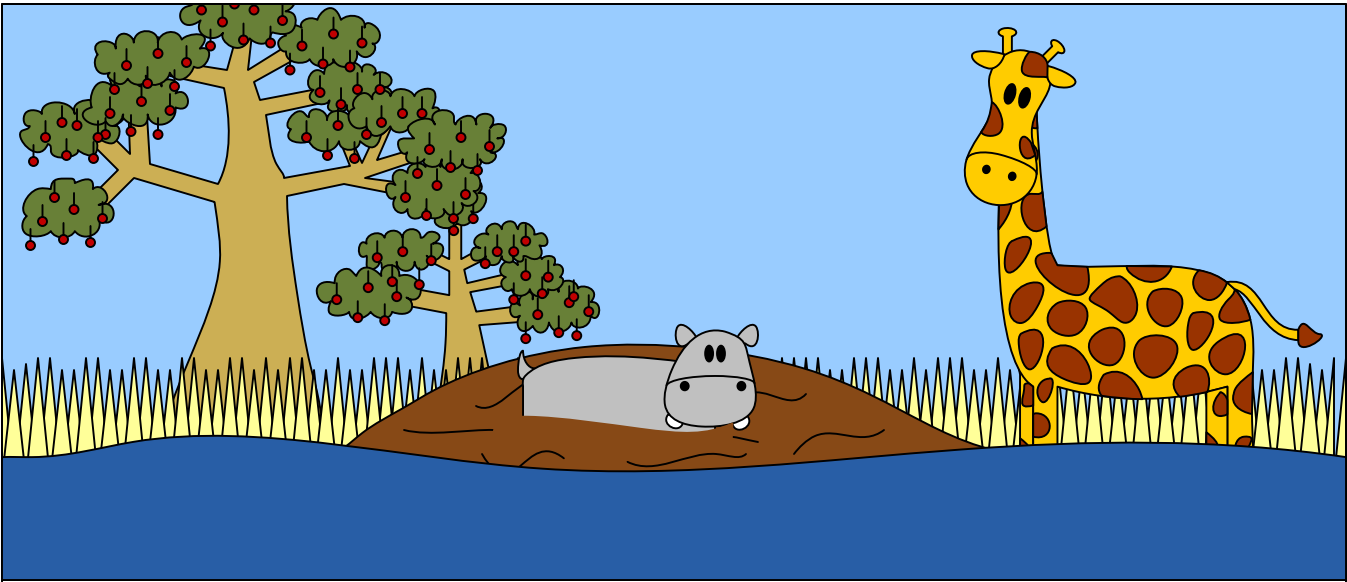
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Raffee lived in the grasslands with her friends. Every day she played with her friends Elephant, Lion, and Hippo. Most of the time, Raffee was happy. Raffee was just sad sometimes because she was so tall and her friends were so much shorter.



Lion liked to hide in the grass. Raffee was too tall to hide in the grass. Even when she lay really low she still did not fit down in the grass.

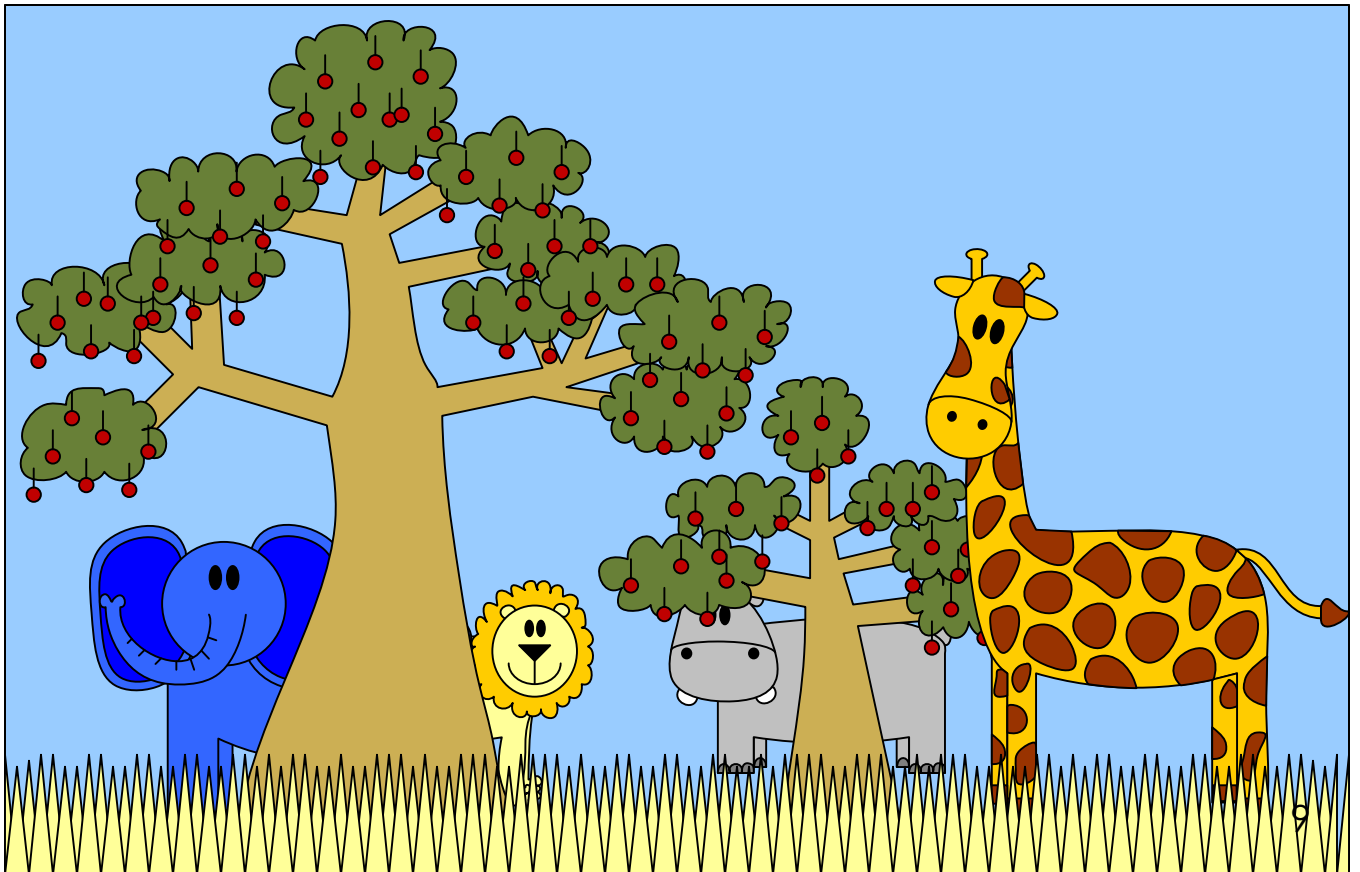
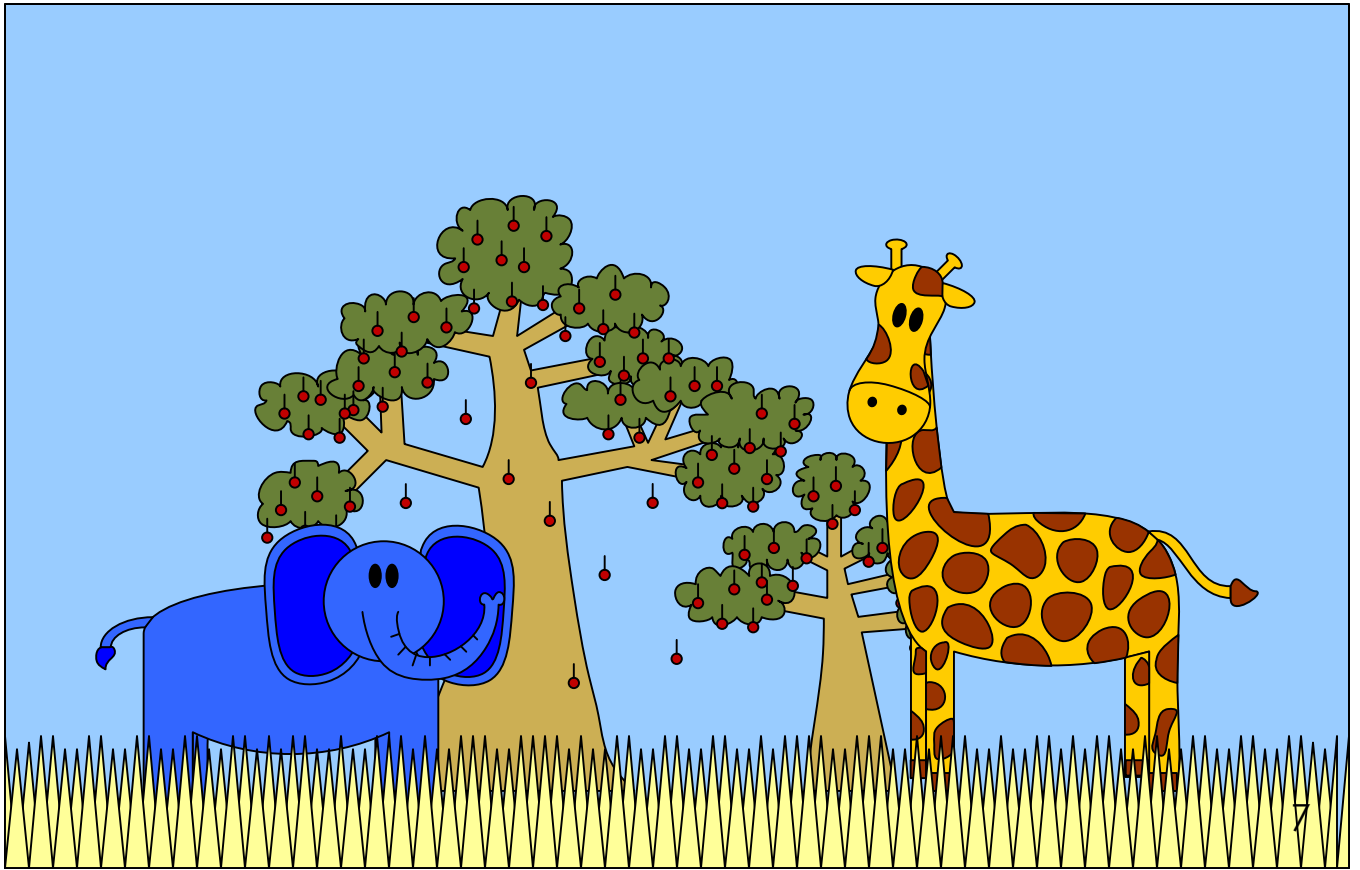


Hippo liked to swim in the river and roll in the mud. Raffee was too tall to swim in the river or roll in the mud with Hippo. Even when she got on her knees she could not get deep in the water or the mud.

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Elephant liked to hit the trunk of the Joo Joo trees to make the Joo Joo fruits fall down. Everyone could eat the Joo Joo fruits when Elephant knocked them off the tree. Everyone really liked to eat the Joo Joo fruit. Raffee did not fit under the tree and she was not strong like Elephant. She could not hit the Joo Joo tree to make the fruit fall. If she tried, she hurt her head when she hit the tree.

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All of Raffee's friends liked to play tag. When Raffee was trying to tag her friends they would run under the Joo Joo tree. Raffee was too tall to get under the tree. She could not get them when they were under the Joo Joo tree. No matter what she did, she could not reach them.

Raffee was sad that she was so tall. She wanted to be short like her friends so she could do the same things they did. Raffee told her mom how she was feeling.

"Mom," said Raffee, "I wish I was not so tall. It is not fun being tall."

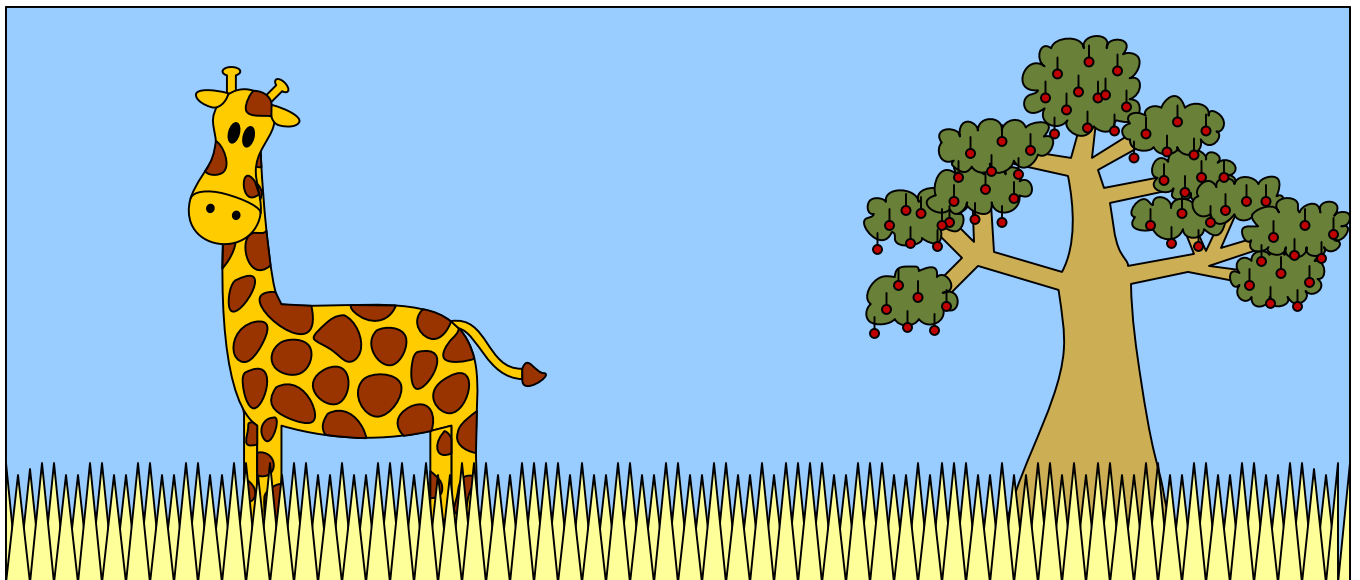
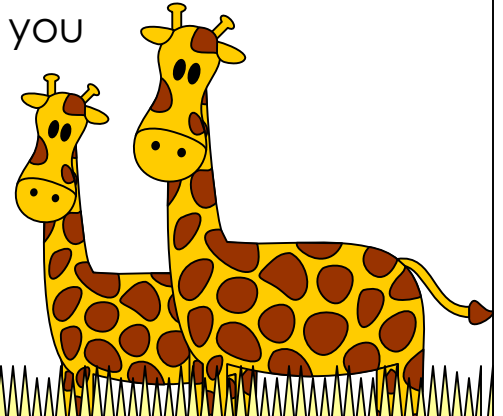
"Really?" asked Raffee's mom. "What do you not like about being tall?"

"I can't get in the water or mud with Hippo. I can't hide in the grass with lion. I can't knock fruit off the Joo Joo tree. I can't play reach my friends when we play tag. Being tall is not fun at all!"

"Raffee," said Raffee's mom, "I understand. That does sound like it is not much fun. But there are some good things about being tall."

"Really?" asked Raffee.

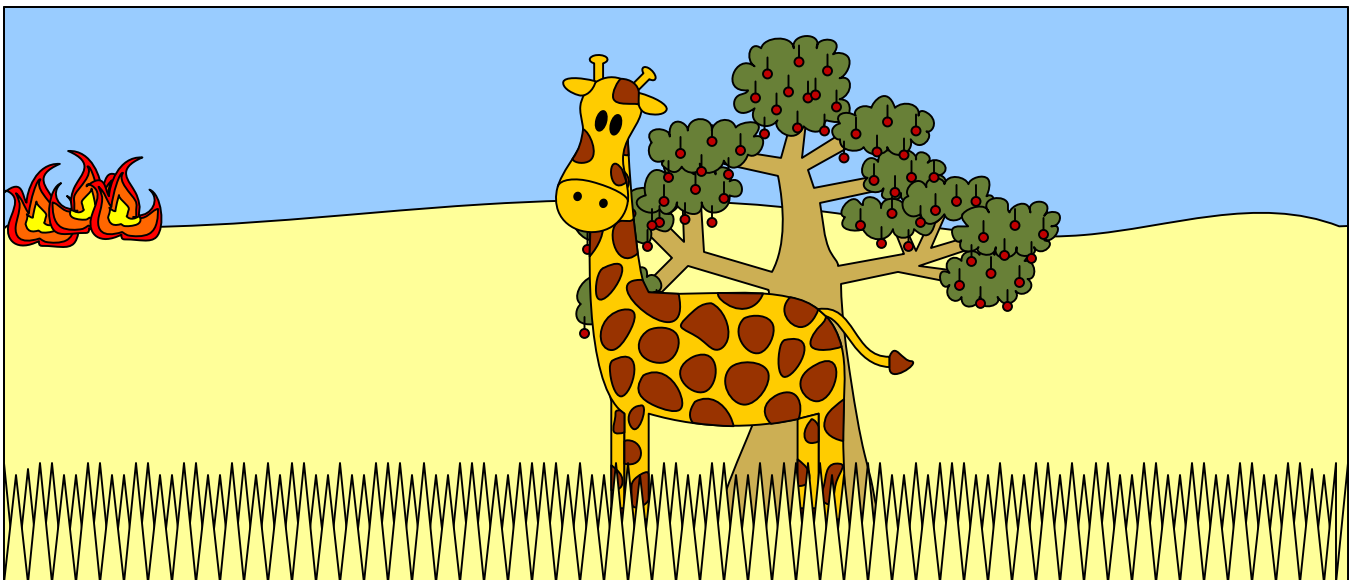
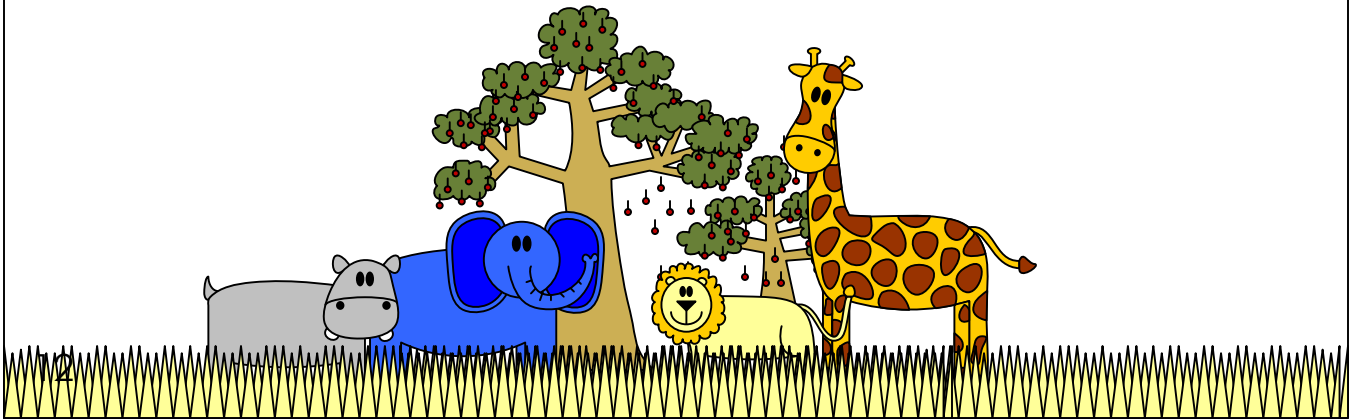
"Yes, Raffee," said Raffee's mom. "You can reach things other people cannot reach because you have a long neck. You can see things others can't see because you are so tall."



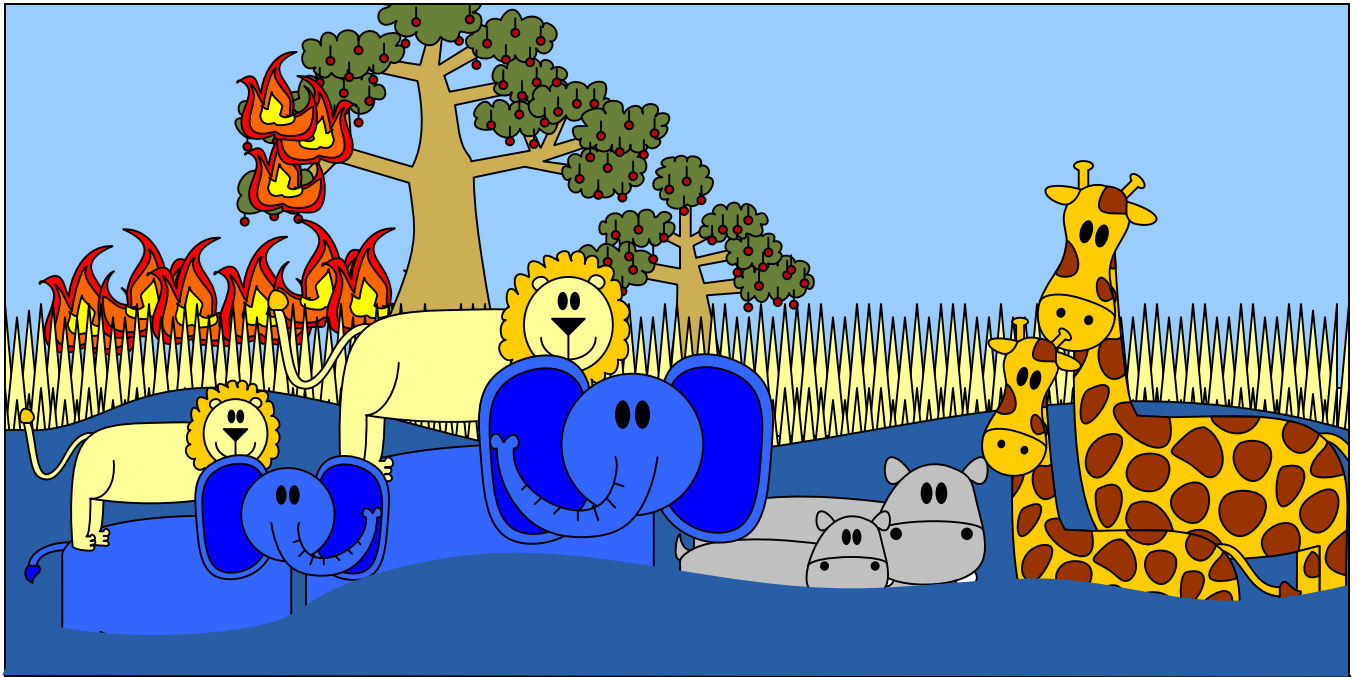
Raffee kept on walking and thinking about what her mom had said. Maybe she was right. Maybe it was okay to be so tall. She could reach the Joo Joo fruits at the top of the tree. Maybe it was good to be tall.

Raffee went on a walk to think about what her mom had said. Maybe she was right. Maybe it was okay to be so tall.

Raffee walked up to the Joo Joo tree. Elephant was there hitting the tree, trying to make the fruit fall for everyone to eat. The tree had grown bigger and the fruit was not falling off the tree. Raffee could reach the fruit on the tree with her long neck. She got some fruit down for her friends.



Raffee started to smell something. She looked around to see what was making the smell. Off in the distance, Raffee saw a fire! There was a fire and it was coming their way! Since Raffee was so tall, she saw the fire when it was far away. Raffee ran to
14 tell her friends about the fire.



All of Raffee's friends and their moms and dads swam or ran across the river to get away from the fire. They were all safe from the fire on the other side of the river.

Everyone was so happy that Raffee was so tall. She could see the fire when it was far away and let everyone know in time for them to get safely across the river. As they stood on the other side of the river and saw the fire, they all knew that every animal was different for a reason. Every animal had skills the other animals didn't have. There was no need to be sad for not being like the others. Being different can be great.