

# The Elephant Ride

by Elizabeth Trach

Nancy was excited. She could see bright red flags on top of a large tent just across the street. The circus was here!

She held her dad's hand as they crossed the street. Nancy wanted to run, but that wouldn't be safe. Instead, she jumped up and down once they reached the sidewalk in front of the tent.

"This is the big top," said Dad. "Inside we can sit down to watch the show. There will be clowns and animals and magic tricks."

Nancy smiled. It wasn't time to go inside the big top yet, so she and Dad had time to walk around the rest of the circus. There was a balloon man and people selling snacks. They turned a corner together, and Nancy saw a big gray elephant.

The elephant was very tall. Even Dad had to look up to see the elephant's face.

The elephant had a blanket on its back. On top of the blanket was a small seat with a handle.

"Would you like to ride the elephant, Nancy?" Dad asked.

Nancy jumped up and down again. "Oh, yes!" she cried.

Dad gave money to the man in charge of the elephants. Nancy climbed a special staircase so she could reach the top of the elephant's back. The man helped her onto the special seat. "Hold on tight!" he said.

Slowly, the elephant began to walk in a large circle. Each step made Nancy's seat rock back and forth. She held tightly to the handle.

She was so high up that she could look down on Dad's head. She could also see the top of the elephant's head. It was gray and had some wiry hairs.

Suddenly, the elephant flapped his ears. Nancy laughed. This was fun!

When the elephant got back to the special staircase, Nancy climbed back down to Dad.

"Did you like it?" he asked.

"Yes!" said Nancy. "Can I have an elephant for my birthday?"

**Questions**

1. Where does the story take place?
2. According to the story, what is the "big top"?
3. How does Nancy feel about the elephant ride?
4. Do you think Dad will get Nancy an elephant for her birthday? Why or why not?

This passage includes words that students should learn to recognize on sight. We've highlighted 12 of these words below, from the Dolch sight word list for Pre-K through 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd grade. Tip: Read through the passage once with your student. Read a second time, but pause on the sight word and ask your student to say the word.

### Sight Word List

1. ride
2. here
3. saw
4. to
5. say
6. give
7. once
8. around
9. together
10. back
11. birthday
12. head

Print and cut-out the flash cards below. Show each sight word to your student and ask them to say the word.

**ride**

**here**

**saw**

**to**

**say**

**give**

**once**

**around**

**together**

**back**

**birthday**

**head**