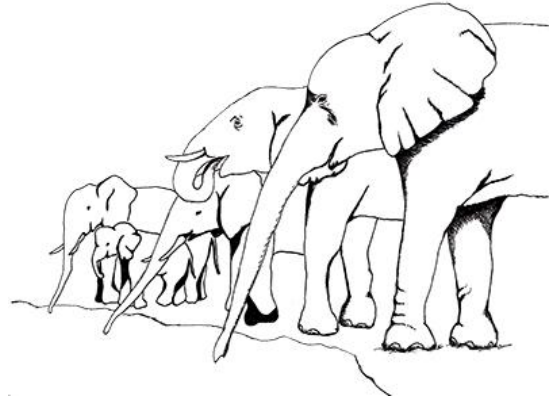


There was a waterhole downhill from the farmhouse. Bertie would spend hours looking out at the wonders of the veld, at the **giraffes** drinking, spread-legged, at the waterhole; at the browsing **impala**, tails twitching, alert; at the **warthogs** snorting and snuffling under the shade of the shingayi trees; at the **baboons**, the



zebras, the **wildebeest**, and the **elephants** bathing in the mud. But the moment Bertie always longed for was when a pride of **lions** came padding out of the veld. The impala were the first to spring away, then the zebra would panic and gallop off. Within seconds the lions would have the waterhole to themselves, and they would crouch to drink.

- 1) Which animals does Bertie watch at the waterhole?
- 2) What animal does Bertie like to watch the best?
- 3) What powerful verbs can you find?

Bertie had no friends to play with, but he always said he was never lonely as a child. At night he loved reading his books and losing himself in the stories, and by day his heart was out in the veld with the animals. That was where he yearned to be. Whenever his mother was well enough, he would beg her to take him outside the compound, but her answer was always the same.

"I can't Bertie. Your father has forbidden it," she'd say. And that was that.

- 4) What does Bertie like to do?
- 5) Do you think Bertie is happy? Can you give reasons why you think this?