

The Blind Men and the Elephant A00114

Section	Pages
Description	1
Student “Fill in” document	2-3
Document with missing words filled-in	4-5
Vocabulary (“Flash-Sheet” style- Print double sided)	6-7

Usage suggestions: Depending on class level, the vocabulary document can be used to introduce some of the words used in the story before listening to the story itself.

Web Content: There are two accompanying “slide shows” available. These present the vocabulary words, and the story itself. Each slideshow has been adapted from a PowerPoint presentation to be viewable using web browser software. There are versions for both “Flash” and HTML5. Test each to see what which one works on your computer.

- Option 1: Story using “Flash”- displayed within a customized “player”. (autoplay)
- Option 2: Story using “Flash” -full window with no specialized player. (autoplay)
- Option 3: Story using HTML5 (No specialized player- autoplay)
- Option 4: Vocabulary (manual navigation- no audio) “Flash” in a customized player.
- Option 5: Vocabulary (manual navigation- no audio) “Flash” full window - no player.
- Option 6: Vocabulary (manual navigation- no audio) HTML5 (No specialized player)

Source file information: Pages 1-5 are contained in a Microsoft Word format file. Pages 6-7 were created using LibreOffice and the source file is in “odg” (Open Document Graphic) format. The “source” for the web content was built using PowerPoint. All files including PowerPoint source (pptx) and a PowerPoint “show” (ppsx) will be downloaded if you select the “Full Package”. Be aware that due to the variety of documents involved, this will be a large download. (Special video bonus! With “full package”, a WMV video file is included.)

Credits and copyright information:

© The story is adapted from 50 Famous Stories Retold by James Baldwin. It is in the Public Domain and no longer protected by copyright.

© The accompanying audio recording is from Librivox. (www.librivox.org) Story is read by “Clarica”. This content is also in the Public Domain per Librivox policy. Minor edits were made to the recording so that it would correspond with the adapted version of the story.

Flash-Sheet Vocabulary materials and browser-playable story and vocabulary, were created by Peter Schmitt using materials from the following sources:

- Story- Public domain as listed above.
- Audio track for story- from Librivox as listed above.
- Images are a combination of public domain images, images released under creative commons, and images provided within an older version of PowerPoint used under the terms of Microsoft’s Office license terms. Because of those license terms, although the work as a whole can be used, copied and reproduced, derivative works cannot be created without that creator also having the appropriate Microsoft Office license.

THE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT

There were once six **blind** _____ who stood by the **roadside** _____ day, and begged from the people who passed. They had _____ heard of elephants, but they had _____ seen one. For, being blind, _____ could they?

It so happened one _____ that an elephant was driven down the _____ where they stood. When they _____ told that the **great beast** was before them, they _____ the driver to let him _____ so that they might see him.

Of course they could not _____ him with their eyes. But they thought that by touching him they _____ learn just what kind of _____ he was.

The _____ one happened to put his hand on the elephant's side. "Well, well!" he _____, "Now I know all about this beast. _____ is exactly like a **wall**."

The _____ felt only of the elephant's **tusk**. "My brother," he said, "You are mistaken. He is _____ at all like a wall. He is round and smooth and sharp. He is _____ like a **spear** than anything else."



The _____ happened to take hold of the elephant's **trunk**. "Both of you are _____," he said. "Anybody who knows anything _____ see that this elephant is like a snake."

The fourth reached out his _____, and grasped one of the elephant's legs. "Oh, how blind you are!" he _____. "It is very plain to me that he is round and _____ like a tree."

The _____ was a very tall man, and he chanced to take hold of the elephant's _____. "The blindest man ought to know that this beast is not like any of the things that _____ name," he said. "He is exactly like a **huge fan**."

The _____ was very blind indeed, and it was some time before he could find the elephant at all. At last _____ seized the animal's tail. "O foolish fellows!" he cried. "You surely have lost your senses. This _____ is not like a wall, or a spear, or a snake, or a tree. Neither is he like a fan. But any _____ with a particle of sense can _____ that he is exactly like a **rope**."

Then the elephant moved on, and the _____ blind men sat by the roadside all _____, and **quarreled** about him. Each believed that he _____ just how the animal looked; and each called the _____ hard names because they did not **agree** with him. People sometimes act foolishly.

Vocabulary:

Great: Big / Large

Huge: Very big / Very Large

to quarrel: (verb) to argue, to fight (past = quarreled)

Beast: Animal or Monster



THE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT (from 50 Famous Stories Retold by James Baldwin)

There were once six **blind** men who stood by the **roadside** every day, and begged from the people who passed. They had often heard of elephants, but they had never seen one. For, being blind, how could they?

It so happened one morning that an elephant was driven down the road where they stood. When they were told that the **great beast** was before them, they asked the driver to let him stop so that they might see him.

Of course they could not see him with their eyes. But they thought that by touching him they could learn just what kind of animal he was.

The first one happened to put his hand on the elephant's side. "Well, well!" he said, "Now I know all about this beast. He is exactly like a **wall**."

The second felt only of the elephant's **tusk**. "My brother," he said, "You are mistaken. He is not at all like a wall. He is round and smooth and sharp. He is more like a **spear** than anything else."



The third happened to take hold of the elephant's **trunk**. "Both of you are wrong," he said. "Anybody who knows anything can see that this elephant is like a snake."

The fourth reached out his arms, and grasped one of the elephant's legs. "Oh, how blind you are!" he said. "It is very plain to me that he is round and tall like a tree."

The fifth was a very tall man, and he chanced to take hold of the elephant's ear. "The blindest man ought to know that this beast is not like any of the things that you name," he said. "He is exactly like a **huge fan**."

The sixth was very blind indeed, and it was some time before he could find the elephant at all. At last he seized the animal's tail. "O foolish fellows!" he cried. "You surely have lost your senses. This elephant is not like a wall, or a spear, or a snake, or a tree. Neither is he like a fan. But any man with a particle of sense can see that he is exactly like a **rope**."

Then the elephant moved on, and the six blind men sat by the roadside all day, and **quarreled** about him. Each believed that he knew just how the animal looked; and each called the others hard names because they did not **agree** with him. People sometimes act foolishly.

Vocabulary:

Great: Big / Large

Huge: Very big / Very Large

to quarrel: (verb) to argue, to fight (past = quarreled)

Beast: Animal or Monster

