

## ABOUT THE BOOK

From slowing wildfires to planting seeds, one animal is the true superhero that keeps the African savanna in balance. Elephants dig to find salt that other animals lick, their deep footprints collect water for small creatures to drink, and they eat young trees to keep the forest from overtaking the grasslands. In every season, the elephants are there to protect the savanna and its residents — but what would happen if the elephants were only “once upon a time”? Read along to discover the important role this keystone species plays in the savanna and explore what would happen if the elephants vanished.

Release Date: February 10, 2016

Ages 4 - 8 · 32 pages · Trim size 8.5 x 10 inches

Hardcover: 9781628557312, \$17.95

Paperback: 9781628557381, \$9.95

Spanish Paperback: 9781628557459, \$9.95

Downloadable ebooks:

ebook English: 9781628557527, \$6.95

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Arbordale ebooks with Spanish language selection, audio, word highlighting, and speed control are available online.

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

### *For Creative Minds*

After readers see how important elephants are to their environment, learn more with activities in the book's For Creative Minds Section, topics include:

- Keystone Species
- Rainy Season, Dry Season
- All About Elephants

The learning doesn't end in the For Creative Minds section; an extensive teaching activities guide is also available on [Arbordalepublishing.com](http://Arbordalepublishing.com).

You will be an elephant expert after reading *Once Upon an Elephant*, this book has been vetted for accuracy by the International Elephant Foundation.

### *Classification Information*

Young readers may be guided to the book based on the following reading level assessment:

- Accelerated Reader: TBD
- Lexile: 450
- Fountas and Pinnell: R

Bisac Codes include:

- JNF003070 - Animals / Elephants
- JNF051100 - Science & Nature / Environmental Science & Ecosystems
- JNF051050 - Science & Nature / Biology

For educators, Arbordale has aligned this book to Next Generation Science Standards, Common Core and all individual state standards. This information is free and available on the book page, too!

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



As an early and middle childhood educator, Linda Stanek wants to inspire young learners, including children with written language disabilities, to write about things that excite them. Her own passion for saving endangered animals and teaching children about the importance of each link in natural world provide the inspiration for *Once Upon an Elephant*. Linda has also written *The Pig and Miss Prudence* and *Beco's Big Year: A Baby Elephant Turns One*. Linda has two grown sons and lives in Ohio with her feline family members. Visit her website at [www.lindakstanek.com](http://www.lindakstanek.com).

# ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

While Shennen Bersani is an award-winning children's book illustrator with 2 million copies of her books cherished and read by children, parents, and teachers throughout the world. Her art delivers a unique blend of realism, heartfelt emotion, love of nature, and life lessons for children of all ages. She has illustrated *Once Upon an Elephant*, *Salamander Season*; *Sea Slime: It's Eeuwy, Goopy and Under the Sea*; *The Shape Family Babies*; *Animal Partners*; *Shark Baby*; *Home in the Cave*; *The Glaciers are Melting!*; and *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion* for Arbordale. In 2015, Shennen made her debut as an author with *Achoo! Why Pollen Counts*. Shennen lives with her family near Boston. For more information, visit her website at [www.shennenbersani.com](http://www.shennenbersani.com).



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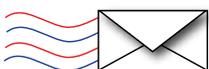
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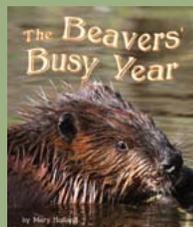
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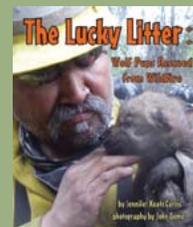
## OTHER KEYSTONE SPECIES



### THE BEAVERS' BUSY YEAR

Along a stream a dam sticks out of the water. Beavers are busy at work! These aquatic mammals have unique

traits that aid them in building the perfect lodge to raise young beavers and keep predators away. Mary Holland's vibrant photographs document the beavers' activities through the course of a year. Do these beavers ever take a break? Follow along as they pop through the winter ice to begin the busy year of eating bark, building dams and gathering food just in time for winter to come again.



### THE LUCKY LITTER: WOLF PUPS RESCUED FROM WILDFIRE

As a huge wildfire roared along the Funny River in the

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, firefighters rushed to the rescue. When they found five three-week-old wolf pups in need, they raced into action to save the whole litter. With no wolf parents to help, zookeepers and vets at the Alaska Zoo made sure the babies grew into a healthy, happy pack. Follow this true story as the pups travel from their charred forest to the Alaska Zoo, where they grow big and strong before finally moving to their forever home at the Minnesota Zoo.