Elmer

3-4 Nursery Autumn 1 2026

Useful Information	
Author	David McKee
Illustrator	David McKee
Year published	1968
Other titles by this author	Not Now Bernard, Two Monsters, Elmer stories

Tales Toolkit			
	Character- A person or an animal in a story.		Setting- Where the story takes place.
	Elmer is a patchwork elephant who likes to play tricks on the other elephants.		**The jungle;it rains there most days.**
	Problem- There is another character or a situation that is a problem for the main character.		How the characters manage to sort out the problem and have a happy ending.
	Elmer is fed up with being different to the other elephants..		**Elmer disguises himself and tricks the other elephants. They decide to decorate themselves with patterns..**

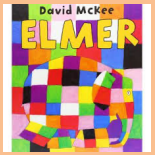
Phrases and repeated refrains from story text Children will become very familiar with these phrases and use them in the oral retelling of the story	
There was once a herd of elephants	biggest laugh
not elephant colour	serious, silent, still standing elephants
slipped quietly away	your true colours
over and over	it must be Elmer

Vocabulary – definitions and synonyms synonyms are words with the same meaning (or almost the same meaning)	
patchwork	pieces of cloth sewn together to make a pattern
serious	not smiling or laughing (thoughtful, grave)
recognise	to know again someone you have met before (know, spot, recall, remember)
pattern	shapes and colours that are repeated again (design, decoration)
silent	not talking or making a sound (quiet, mute)
parade	to walk around to celebrate (march)



Book Knowledge and Concepts about Print
Can your child show you the..

Front Cover



Back Cover

Spine



Title

