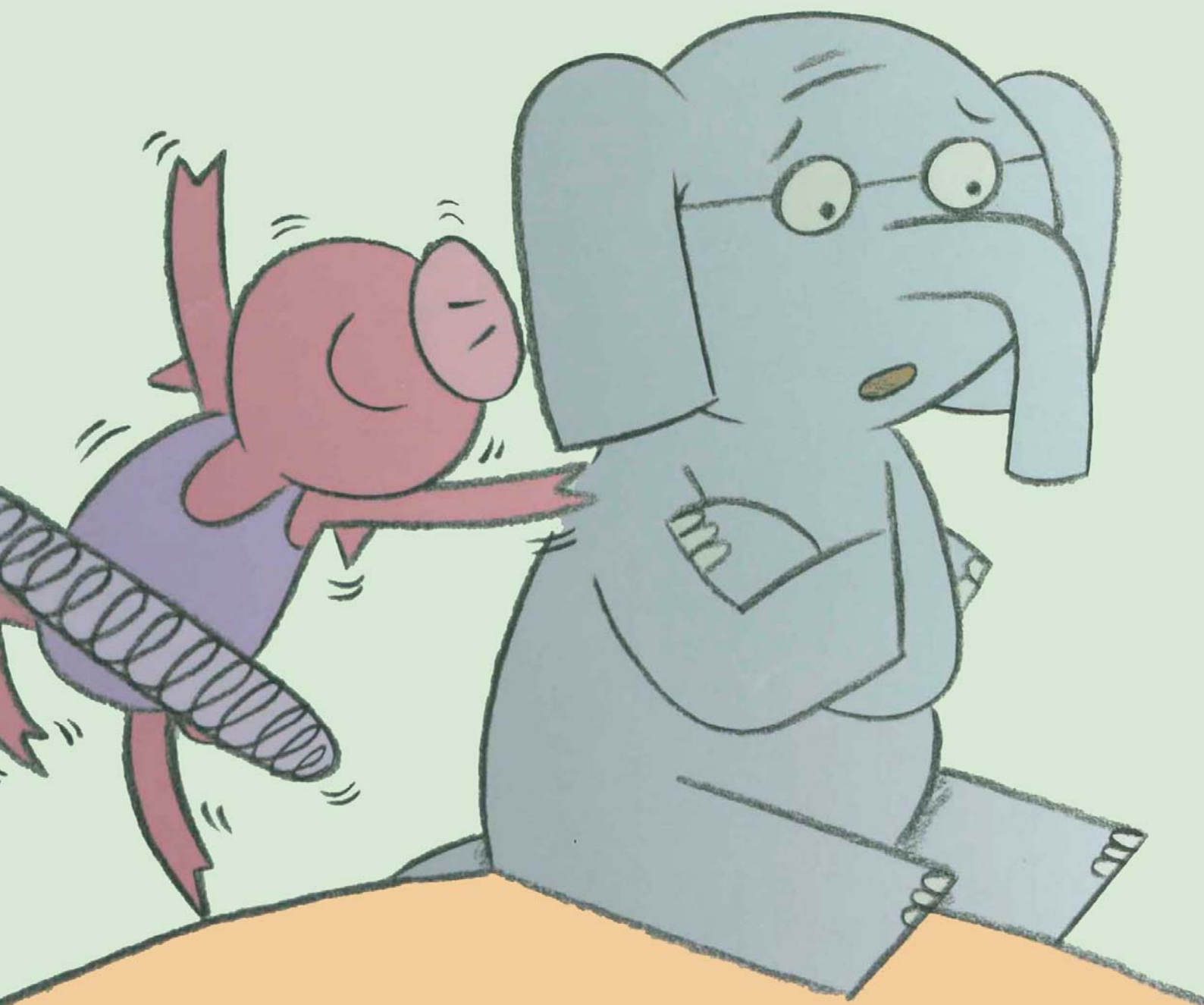


An **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE** Book

# Elephants Cannot Dance!



By **Mo Willems**

To Jon Scieszka  
(who also can't dance)

Text and illustrations copyright © 2009 by Mo Willems

All rights reserved. Published by Hyperion Books for Children, an imprint of Disney Book Group. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the publisher.

For information address Hyperion Books for Children,  
114 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10011-5690.

Printed in Singapore

Reinforced binding

First Edition

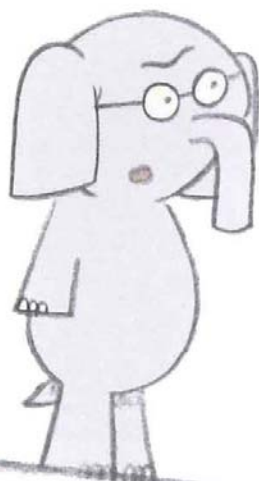
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

F850-6835-5-10134

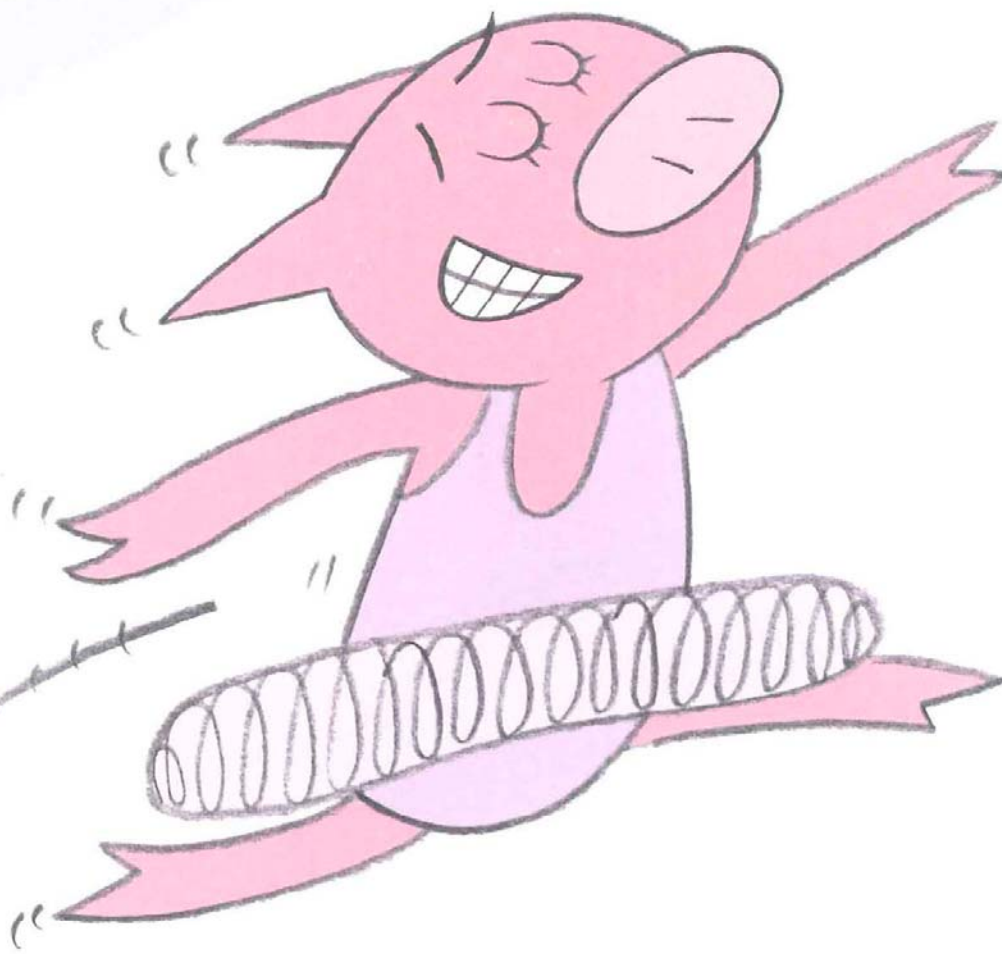
*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data on file.*

ISBN 978-1-4231-1410-9

Visit [www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com](http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com) and [www.pigeonpresents.com](http://www.pigeonpresents.com)



# Elephants Cannot Dance!



An **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE** Book

By **Mo Willems**

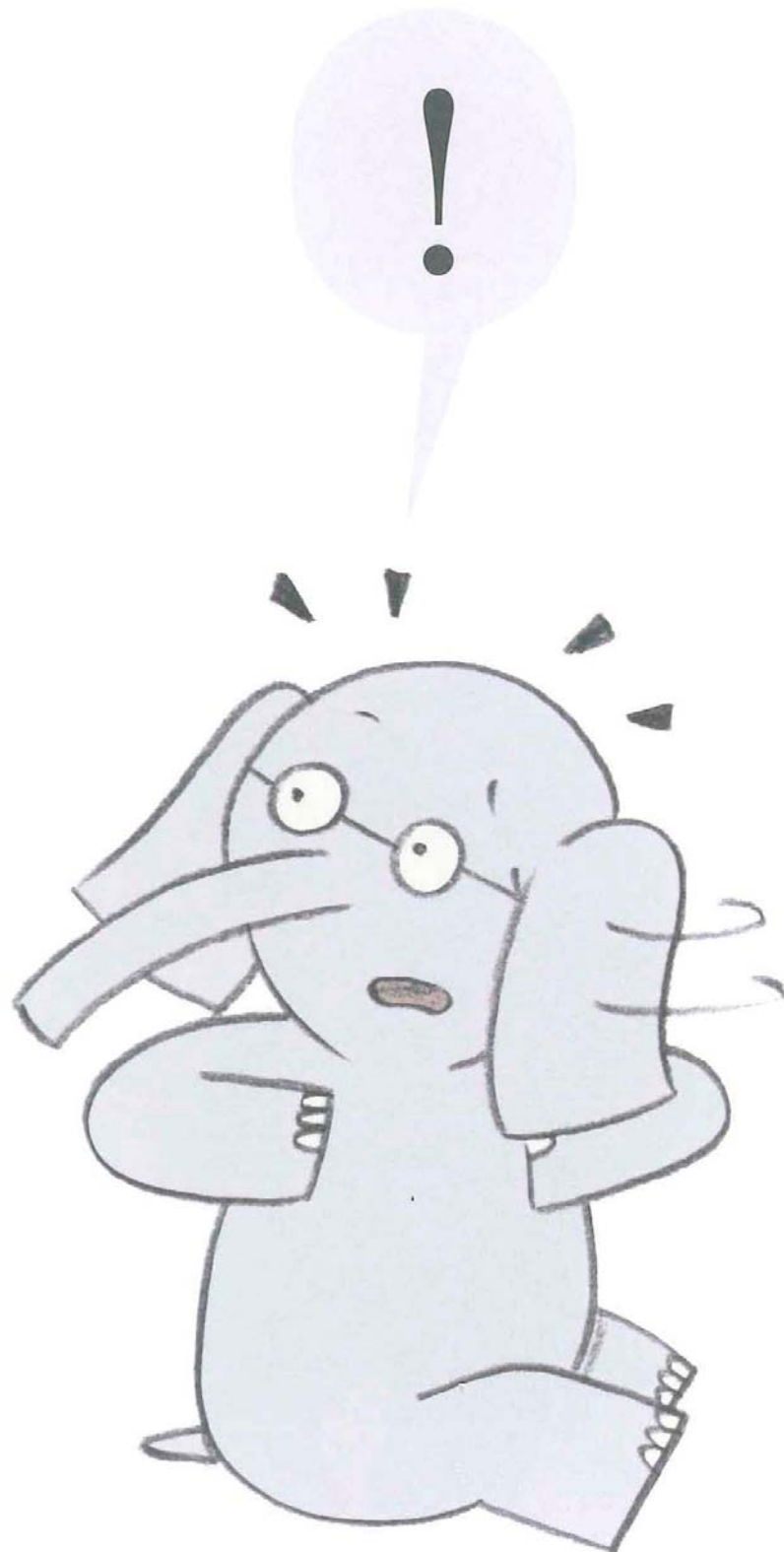
Hyperion Books for Children/*New York*

AN IMPRINT OF DISNEY BOOK GROUP

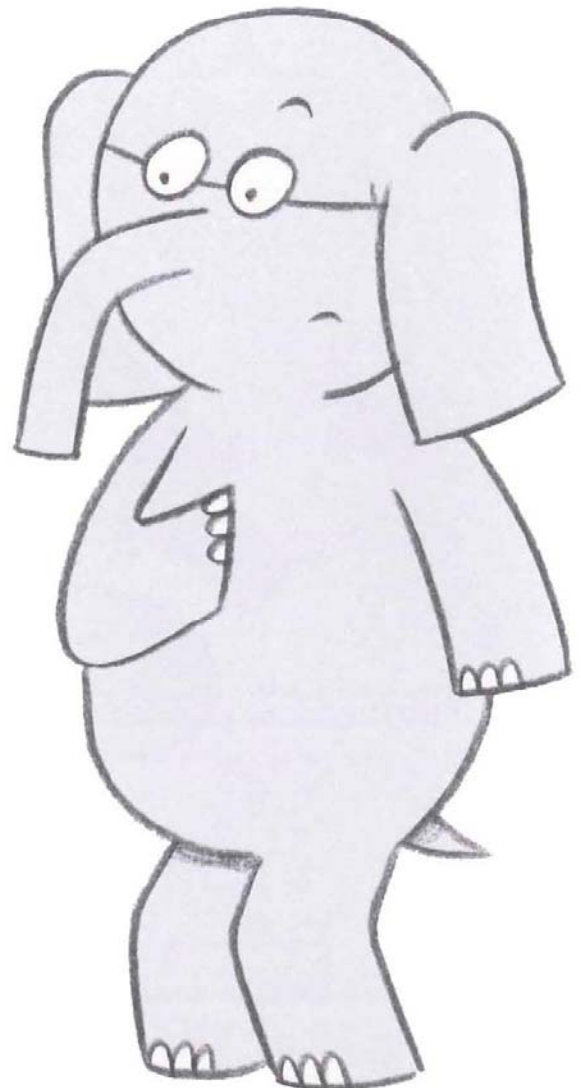
Gerald!



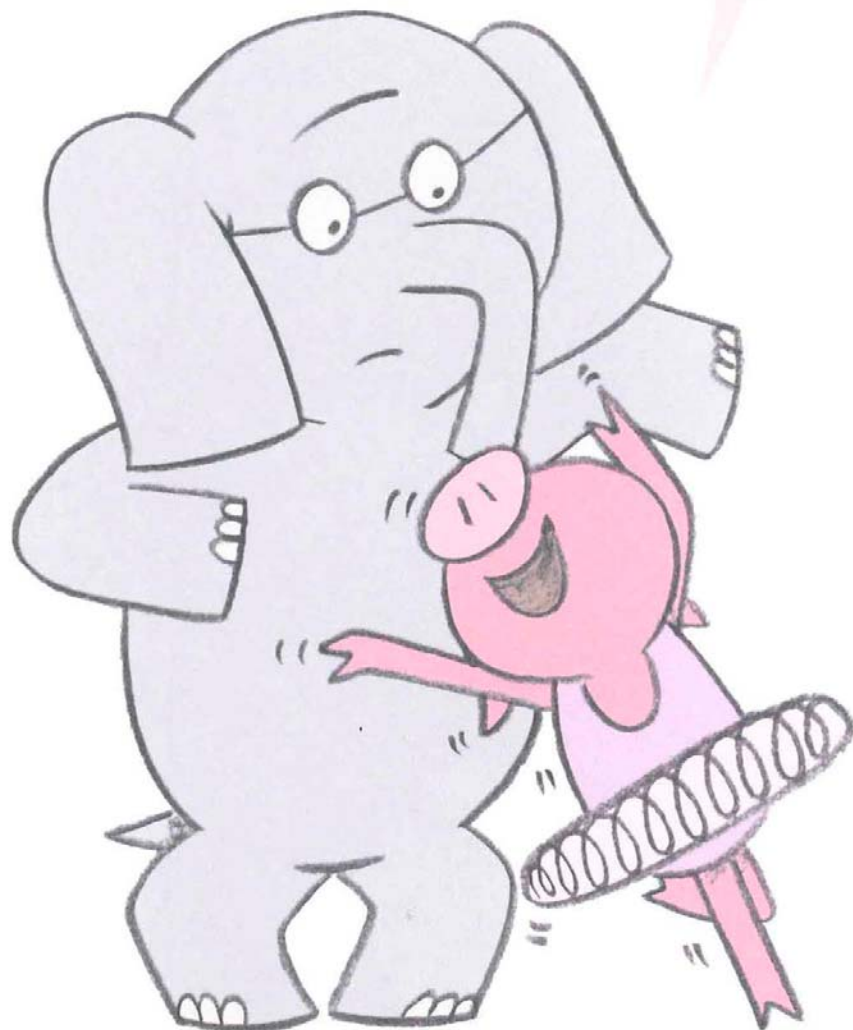




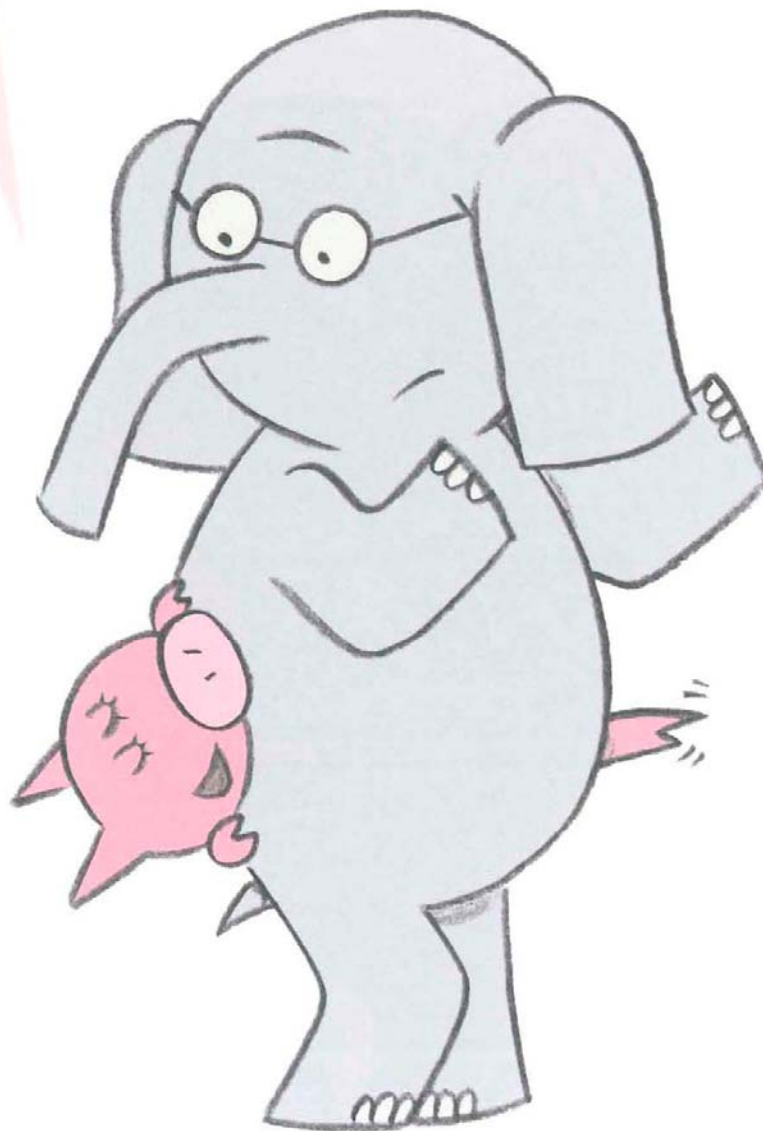
Let's dance!



I can teach you!

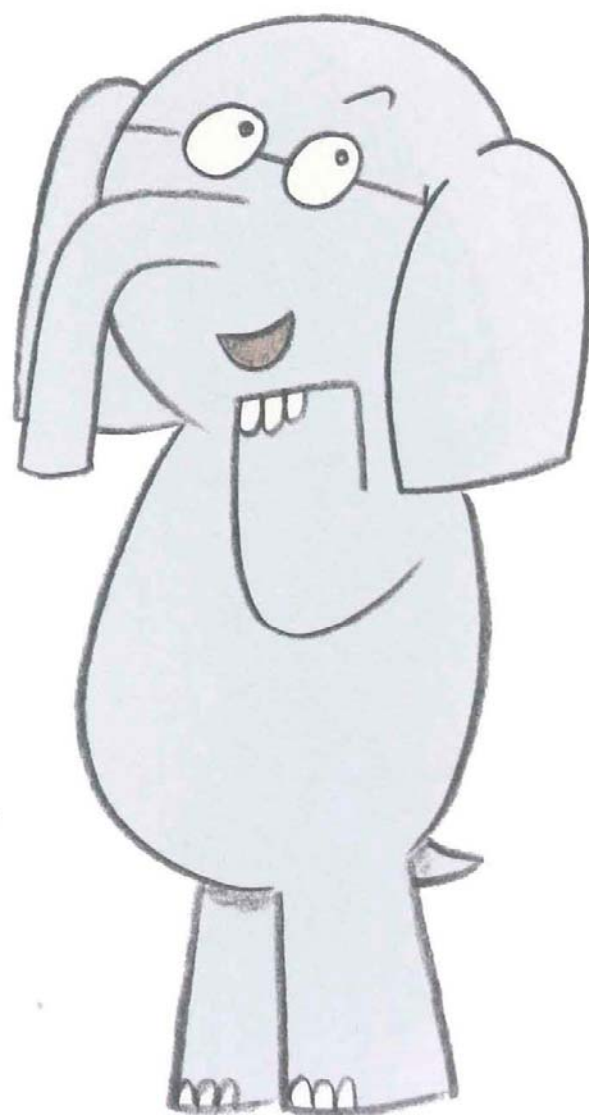


I am teaching  
all my friends.

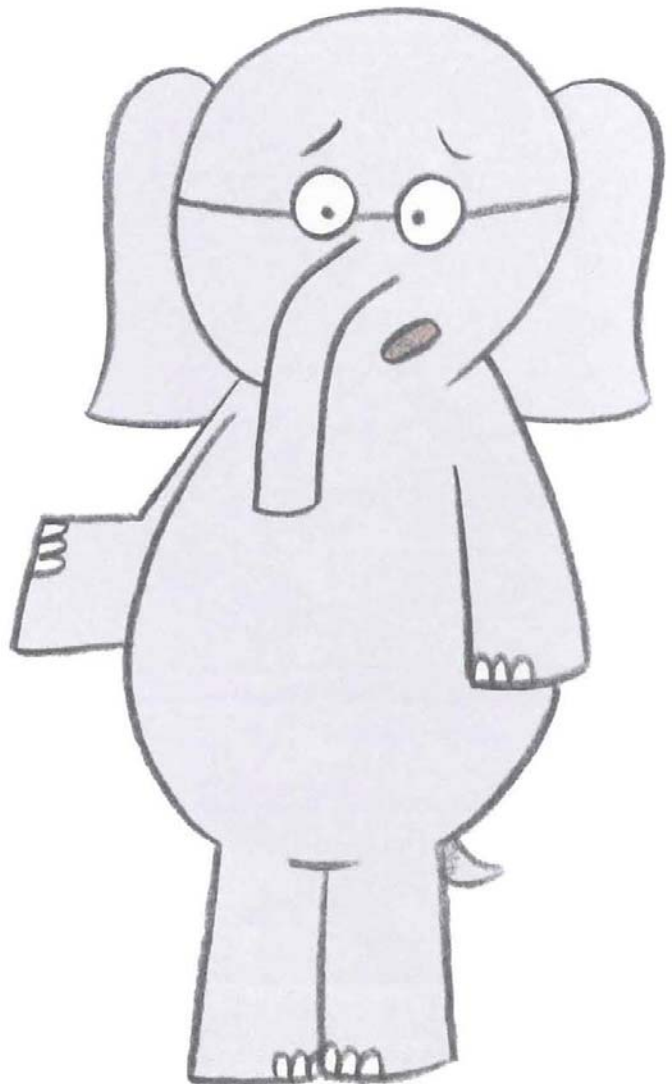




I would love to  
learn how to dance.

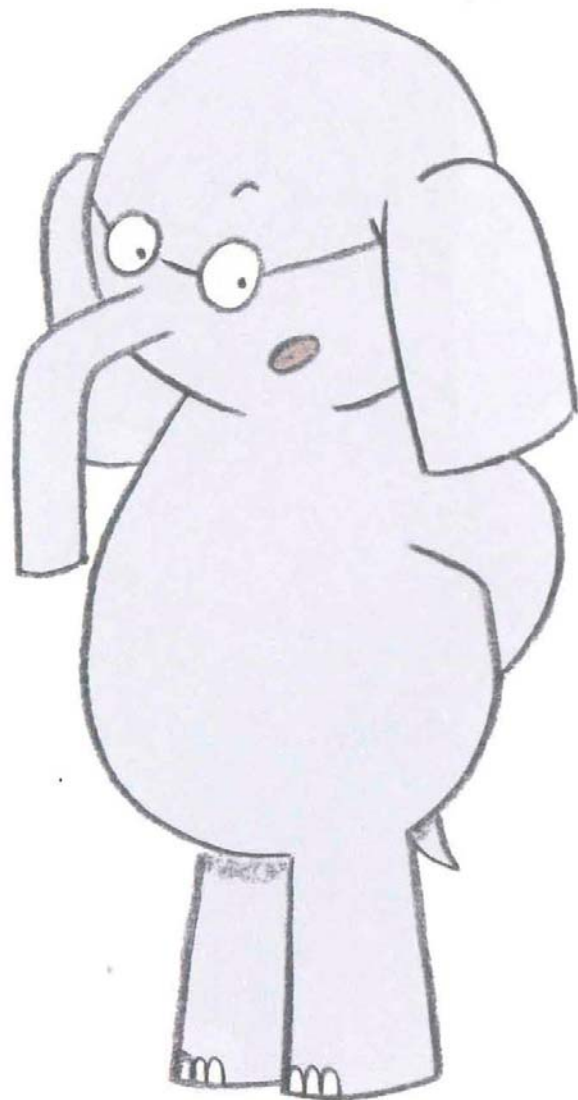
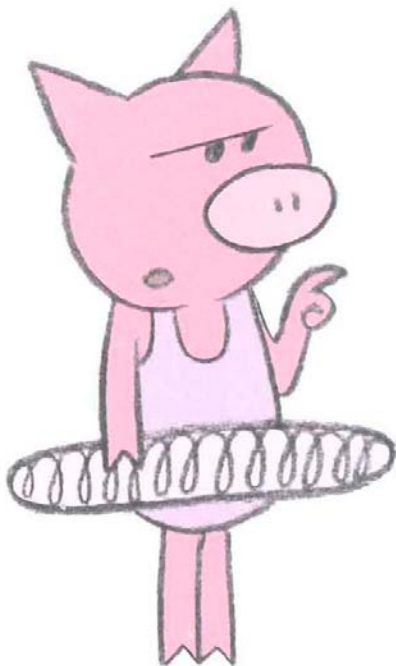


But elephants  
cannot dance.



You are kidding me.

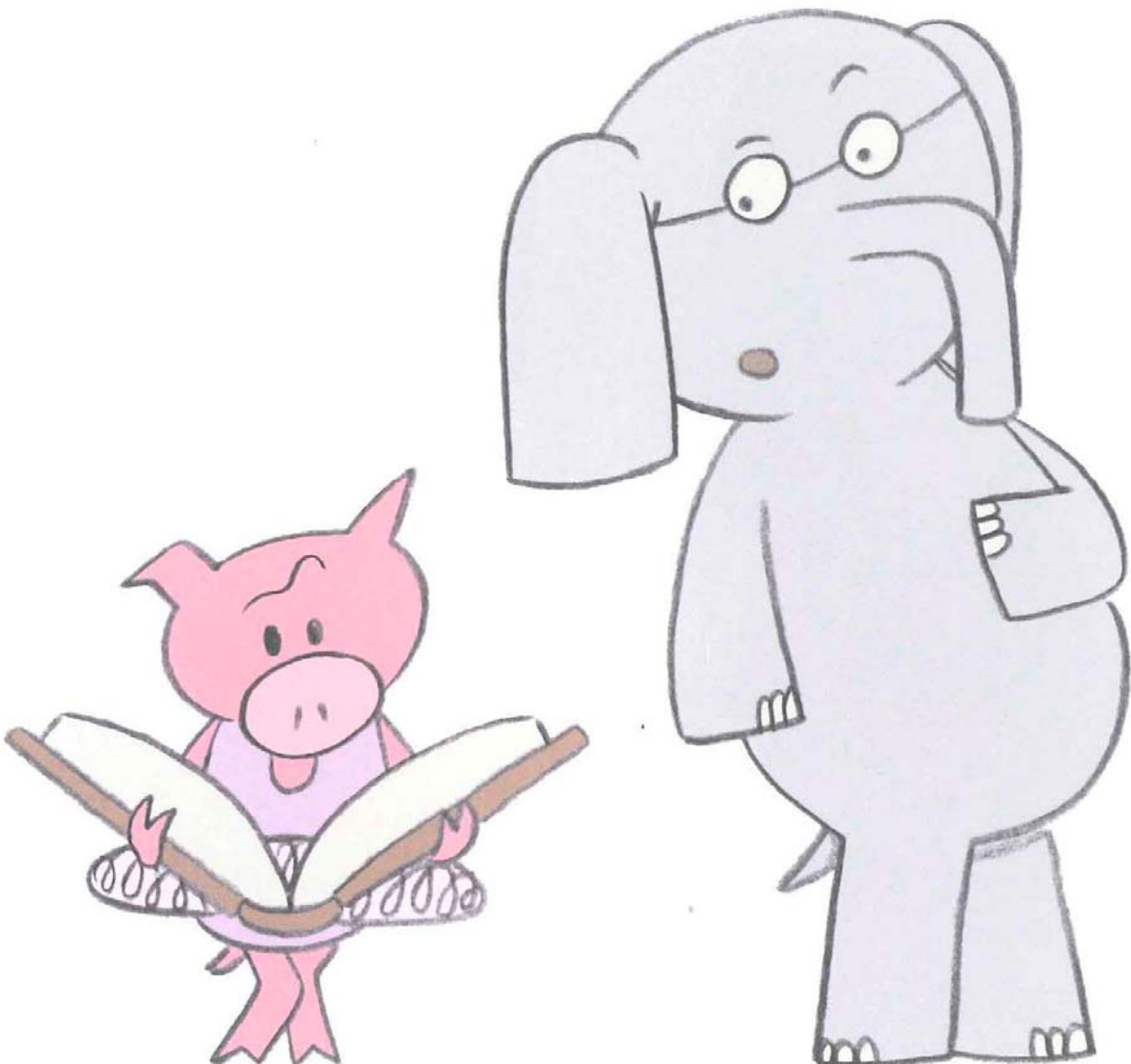
No.



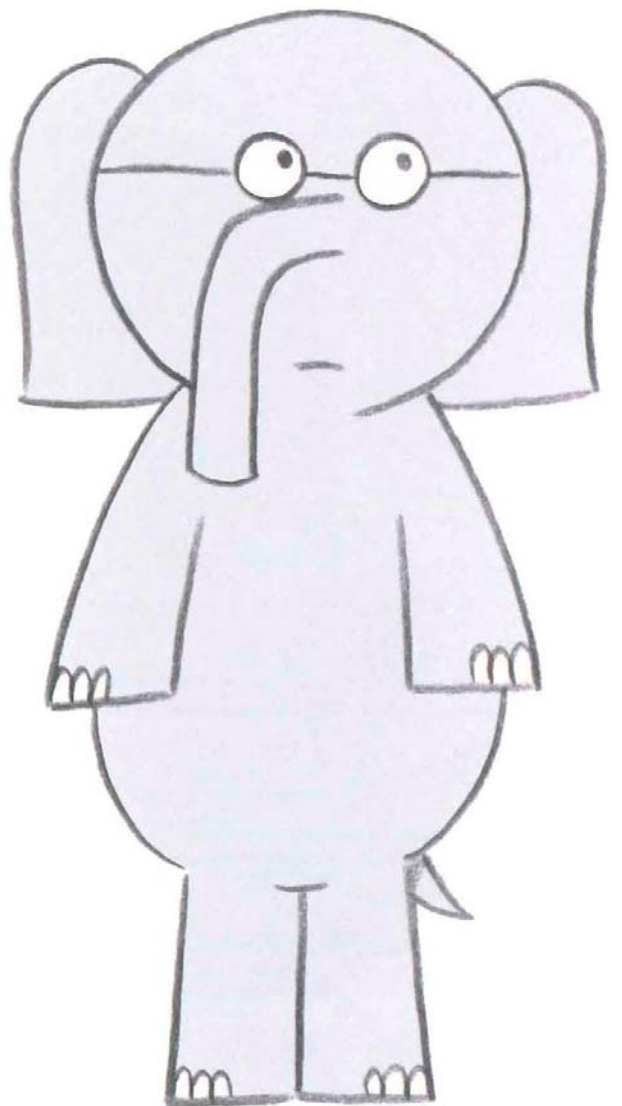
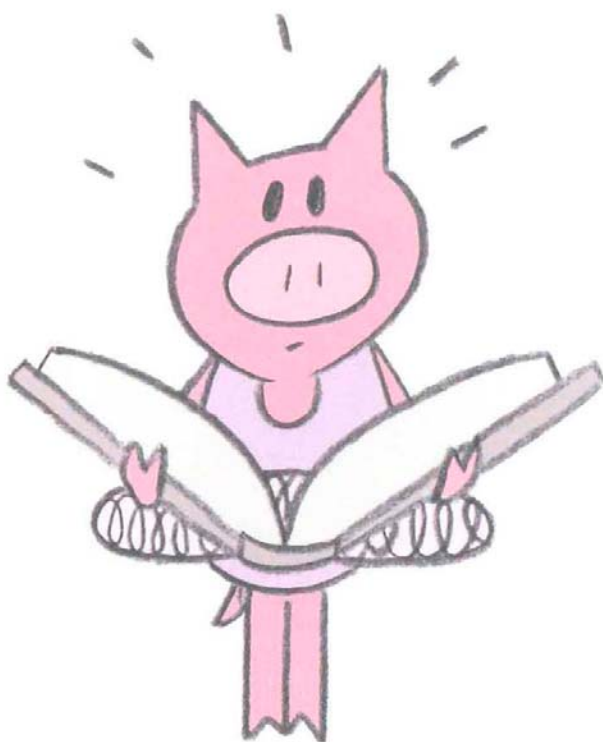
Look it up.



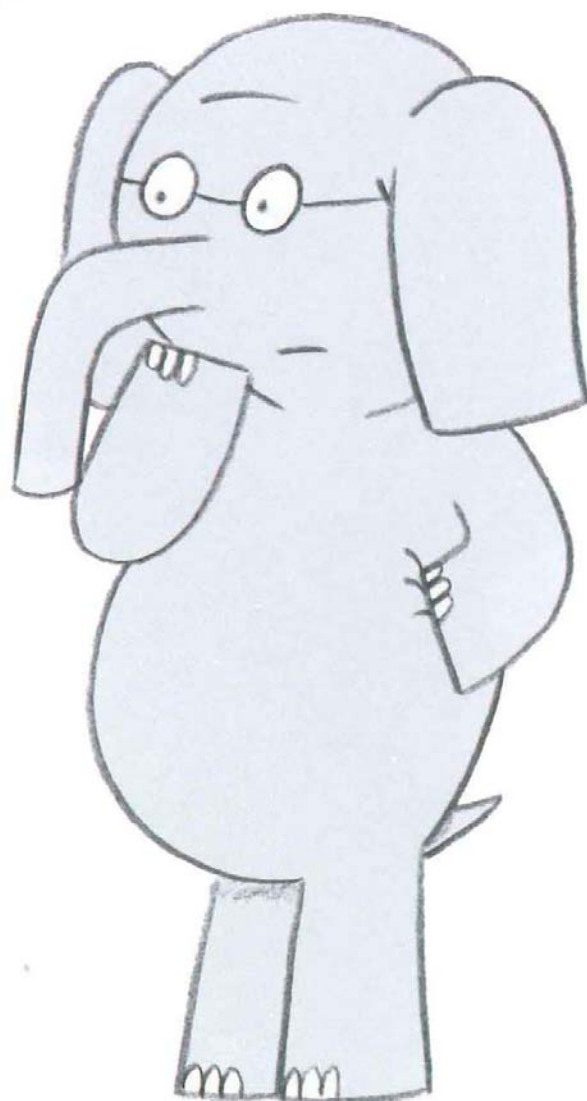
Page 11.



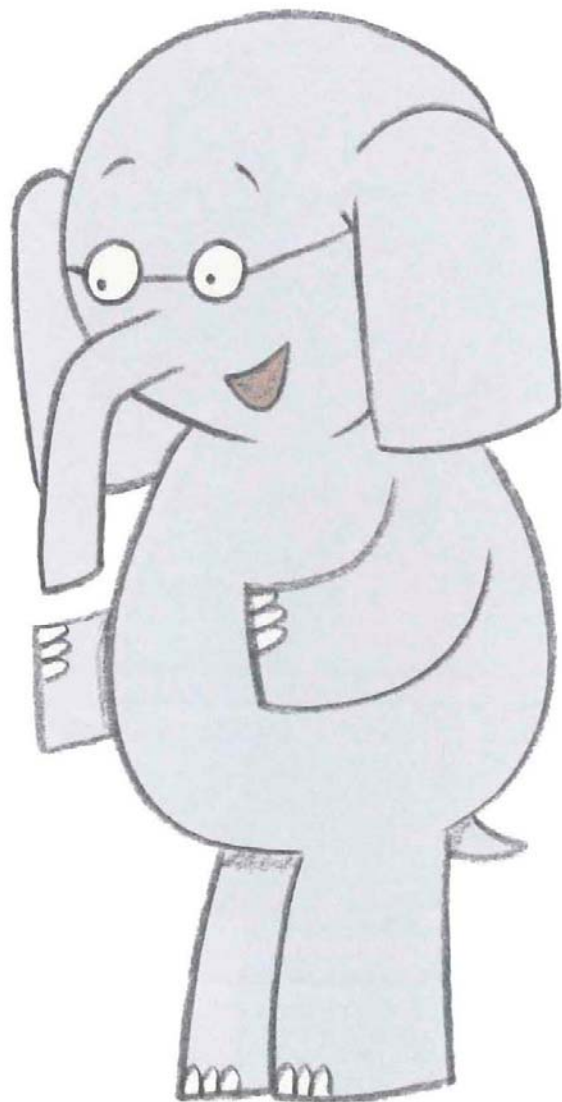
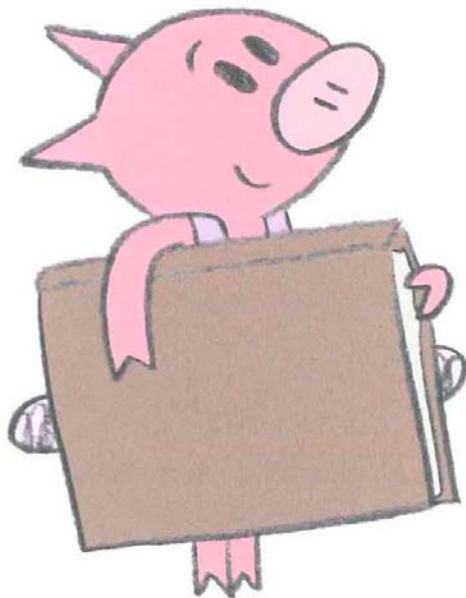




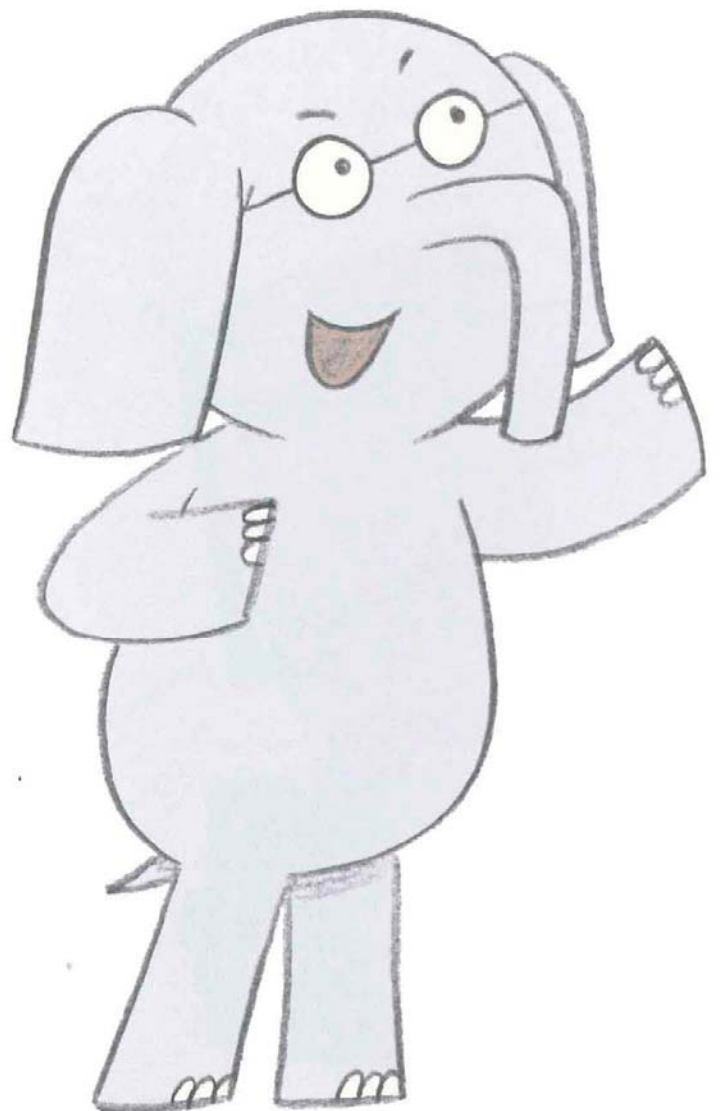
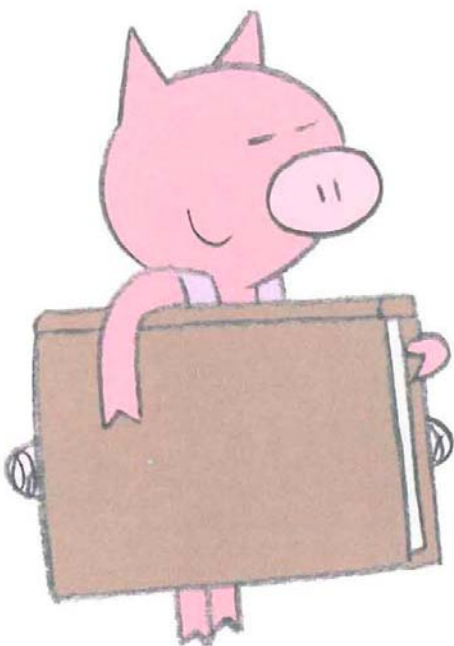
Gerald, it does not say  
that you cannot *try*!



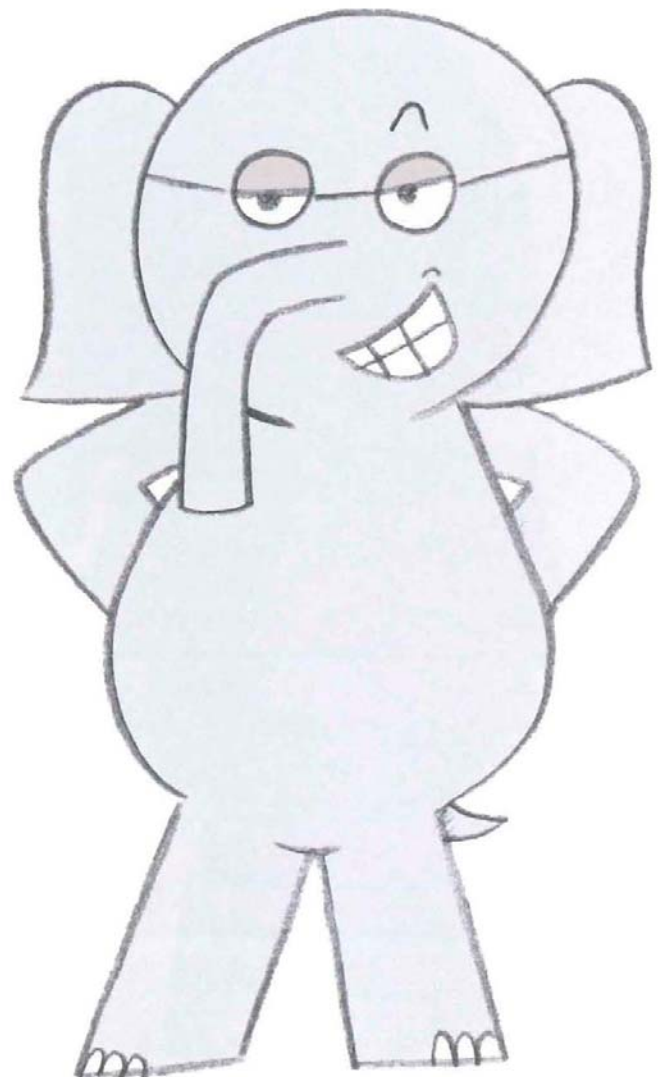
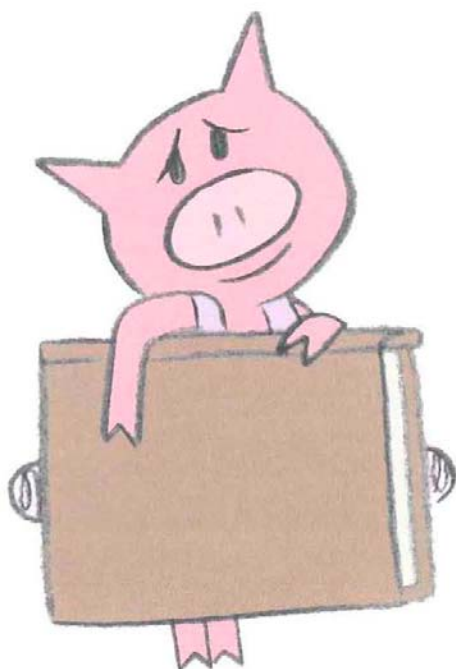
You are right, Piggie!



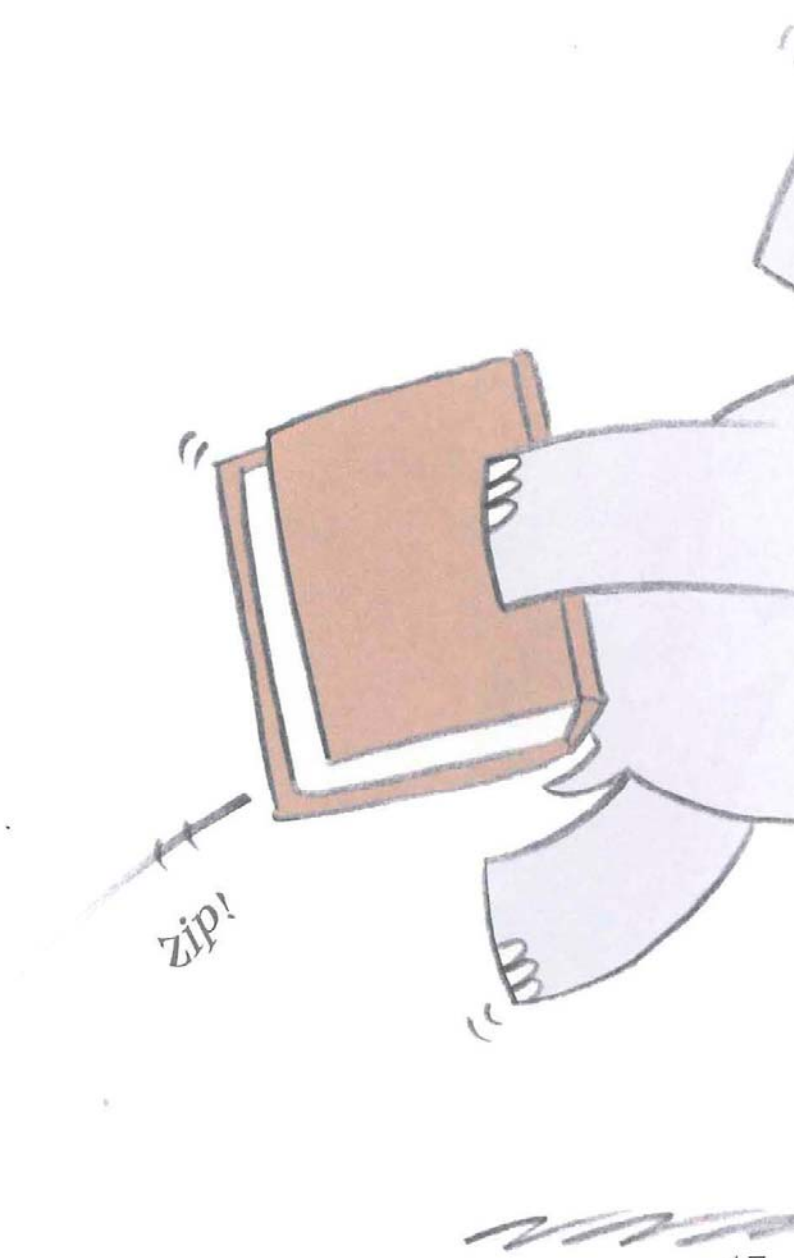
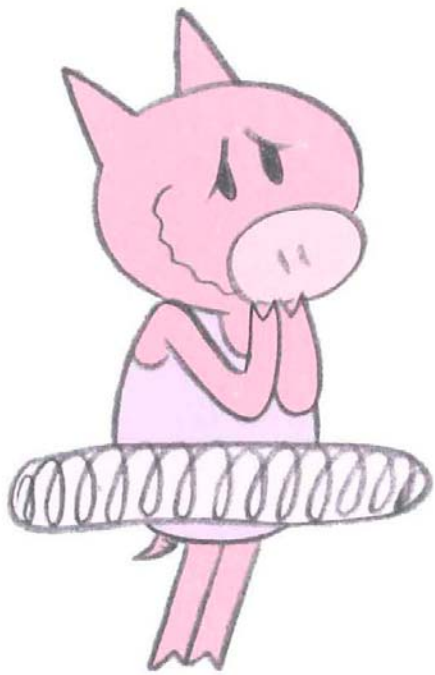
*I can* try to dance!



*I will* try to dance!



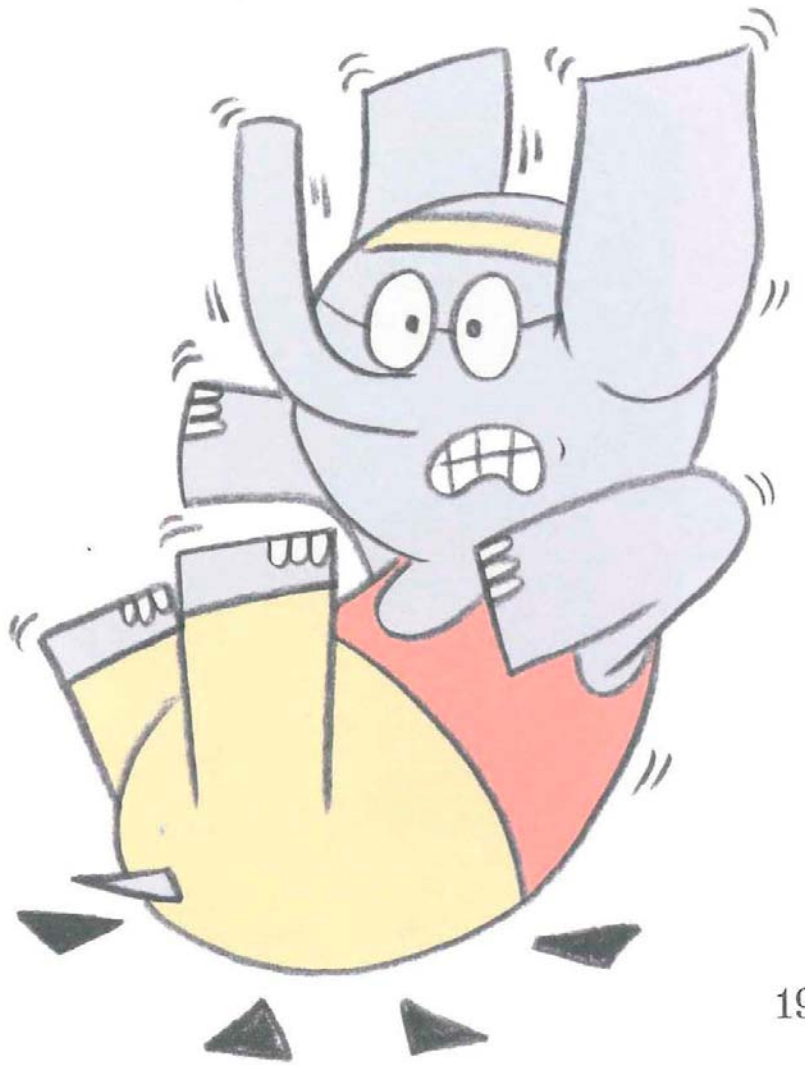




LET'S  
DANCE!

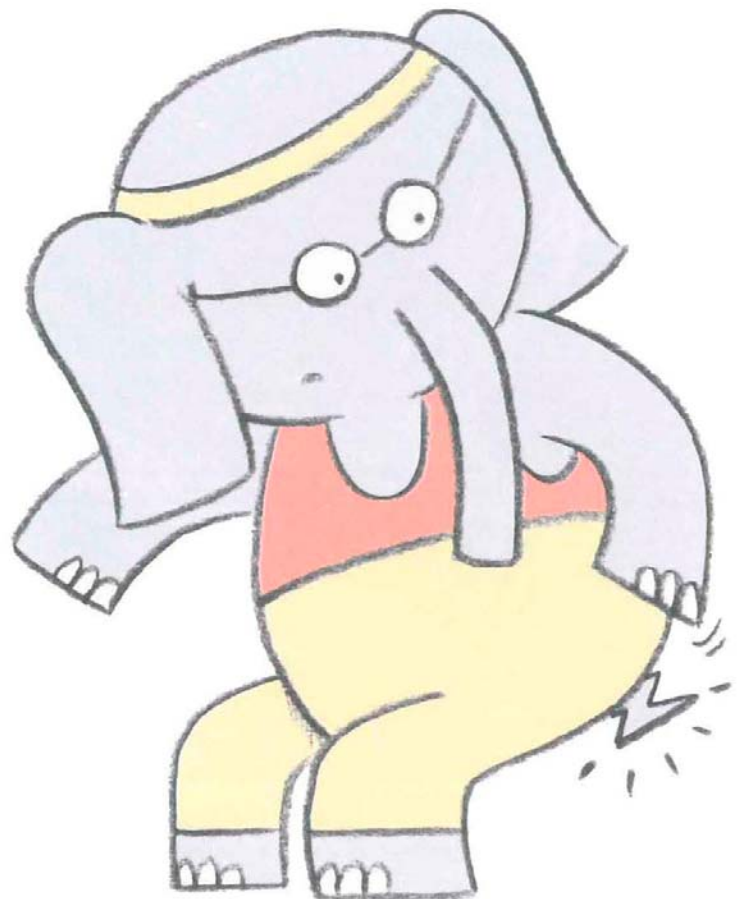


Oof!



Okay. Let's go.

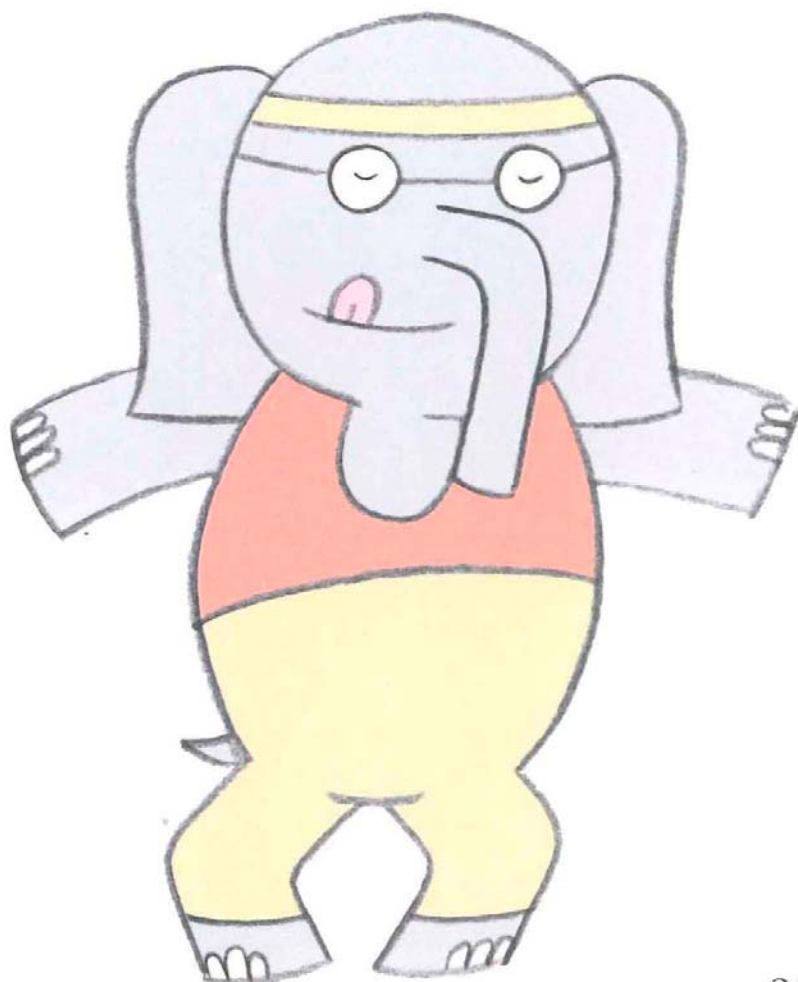
Jump with me when  
I count to three.



One!

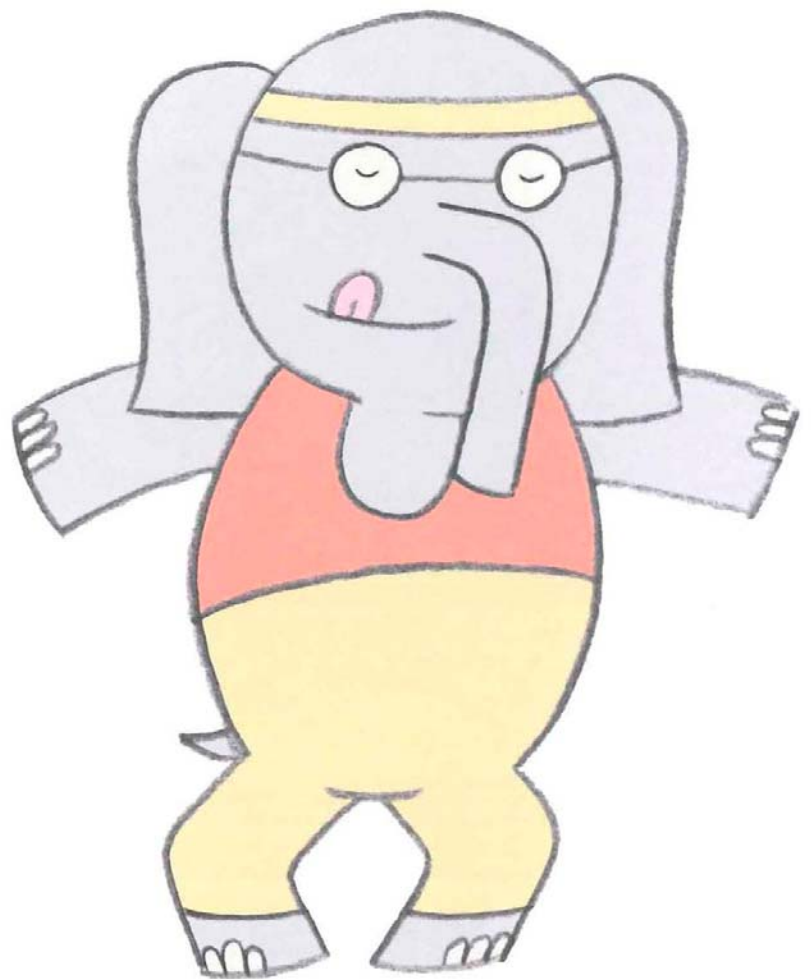
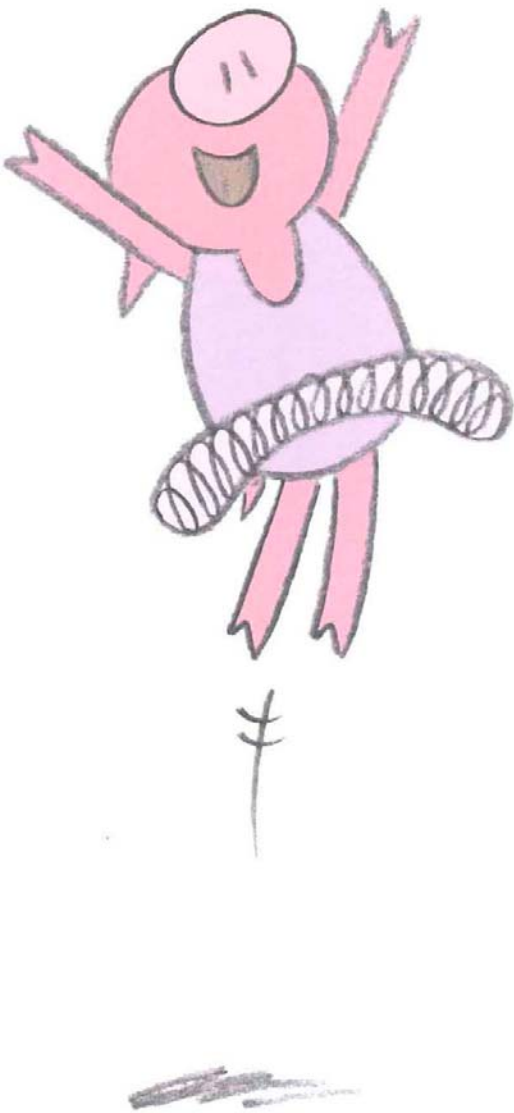
Two!

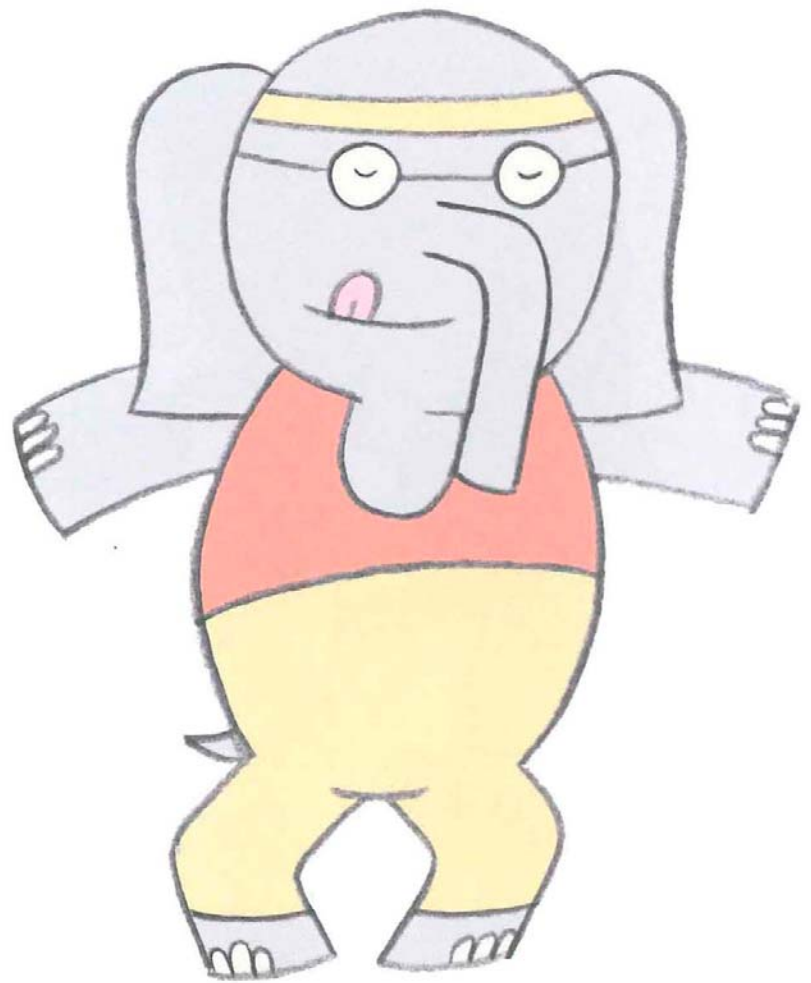
Three!

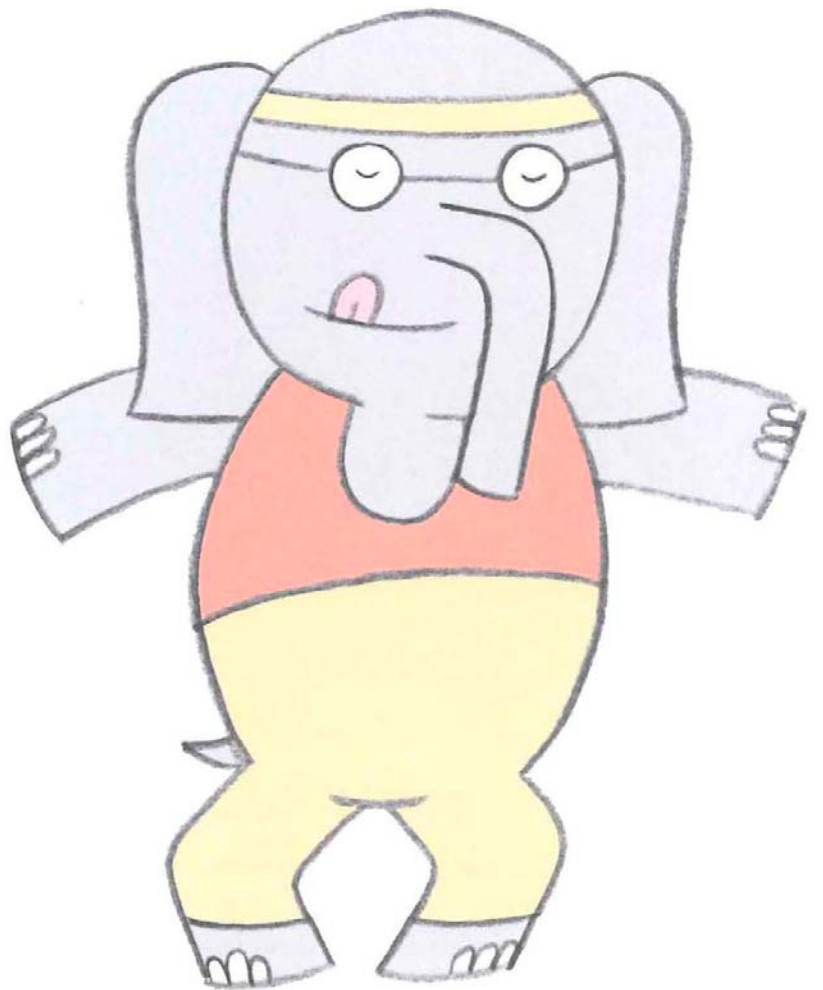
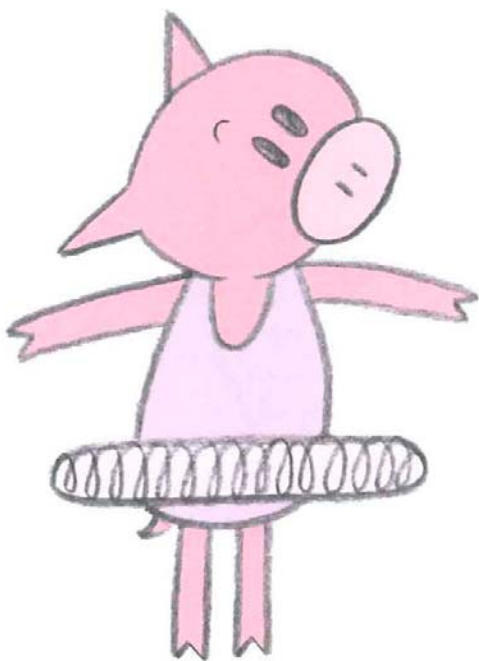




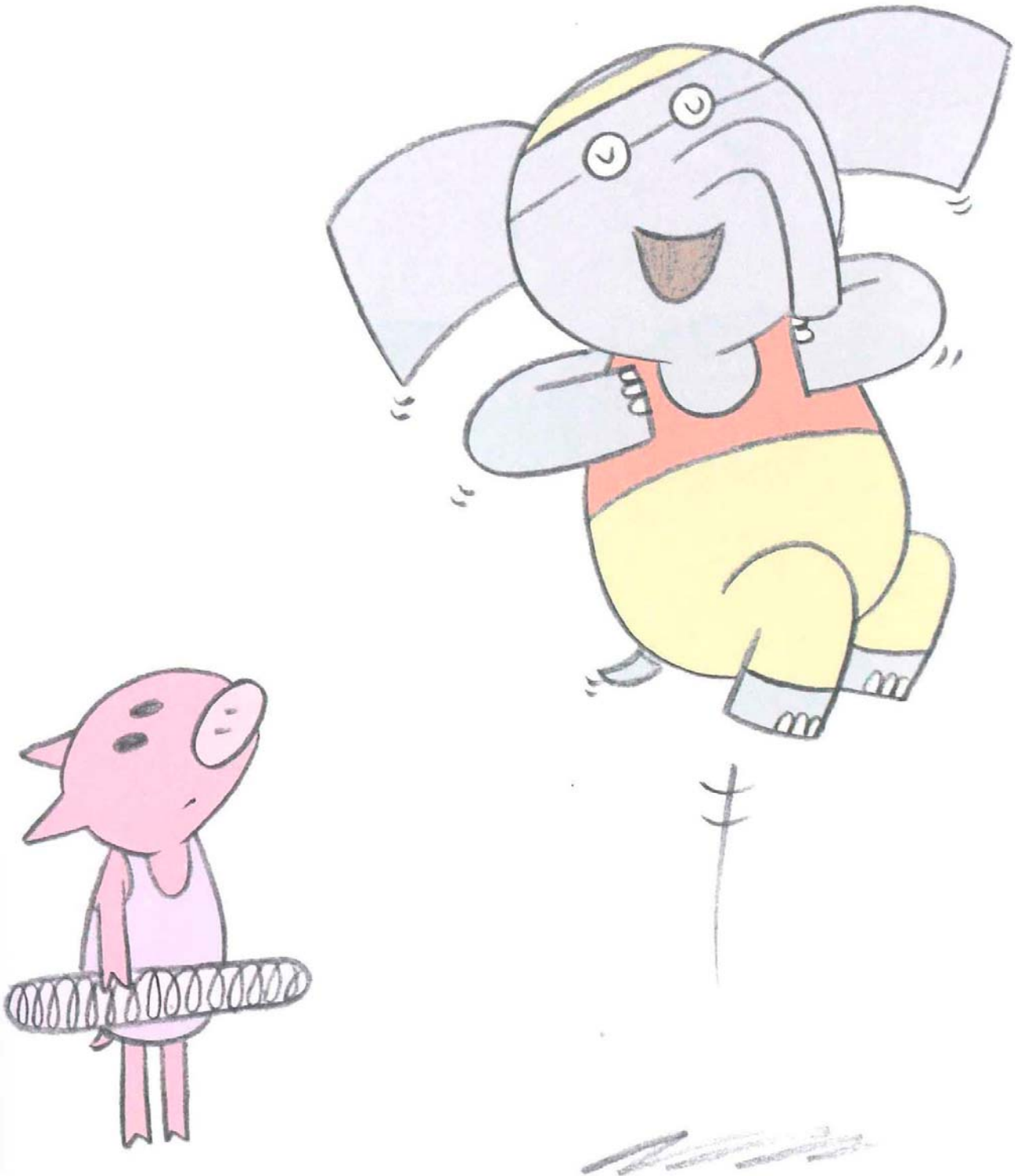
JUMP!





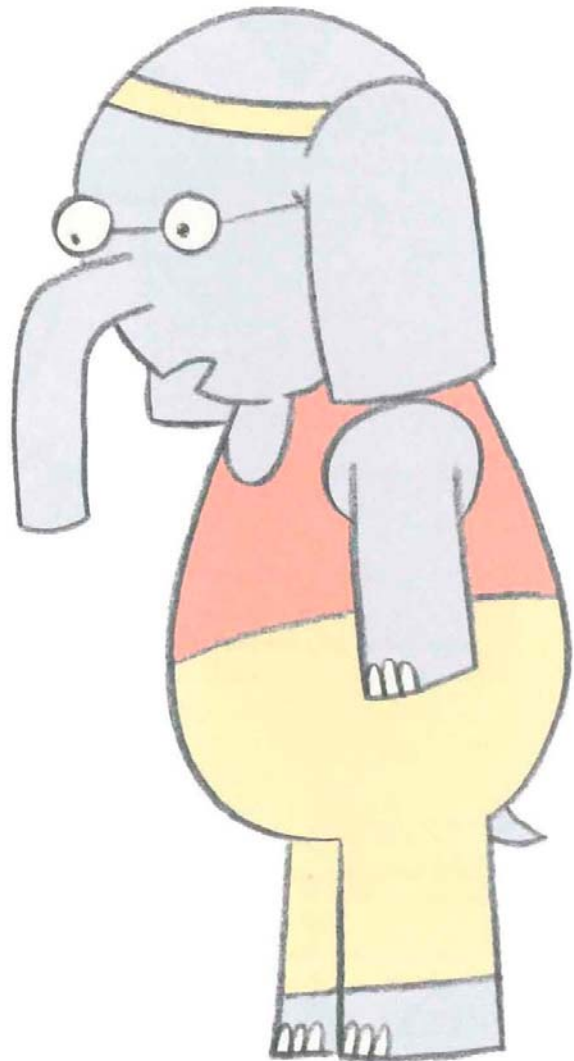


# JUMP!



You were  
a little  
late on  
the jump.

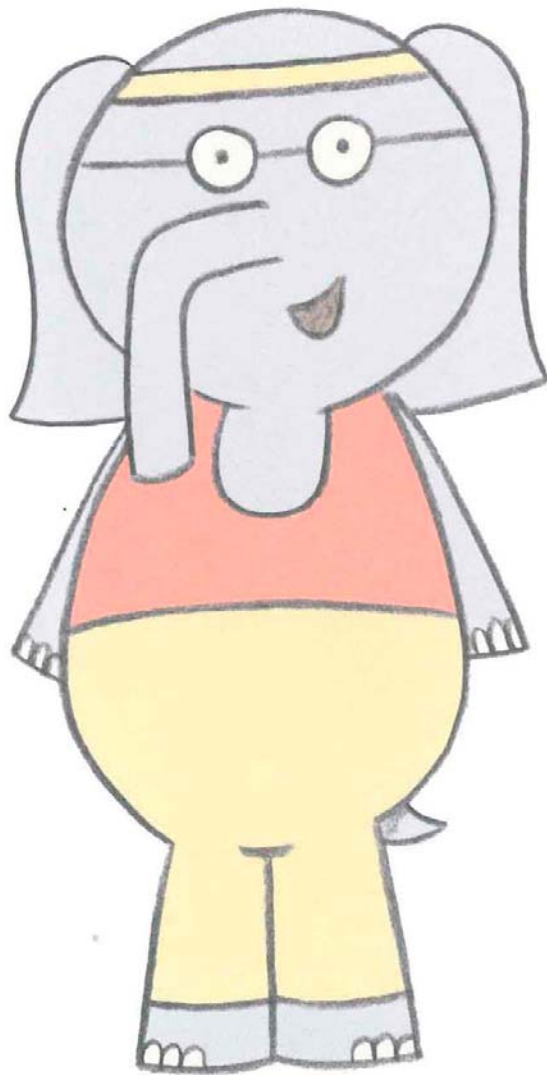
I was  
a little  
late on  
the jump.



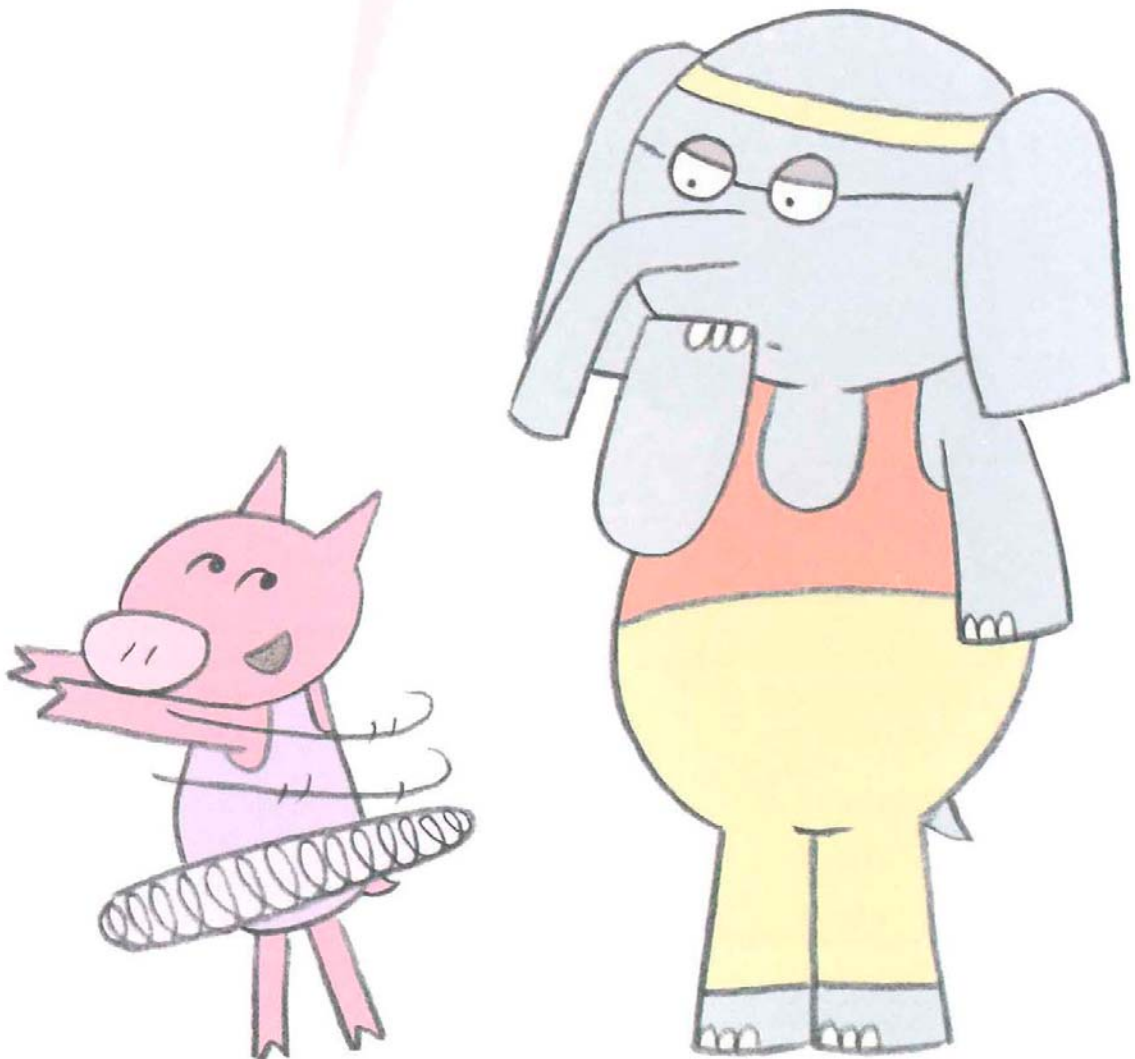


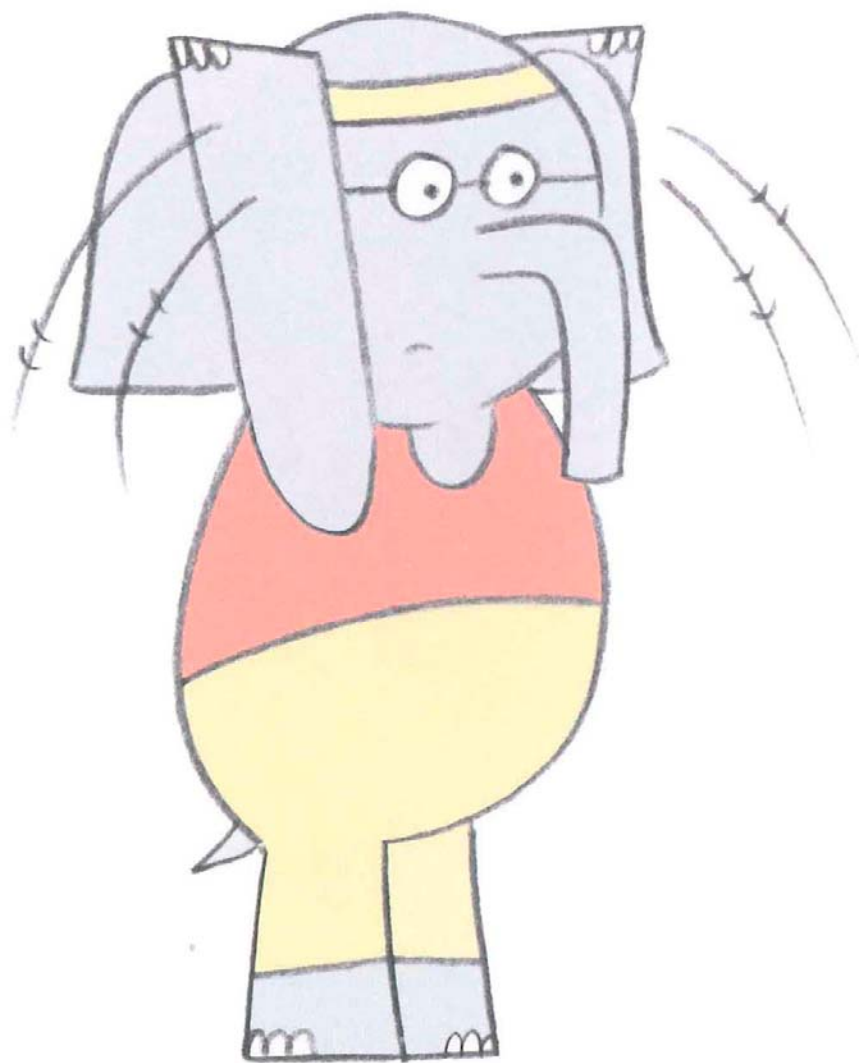
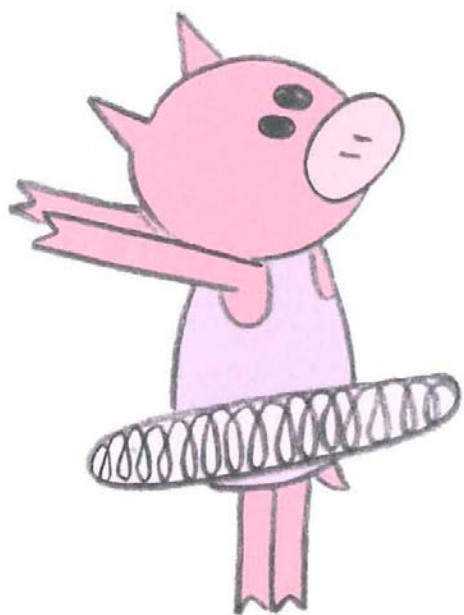
We will  
try again.

We will  
try again.



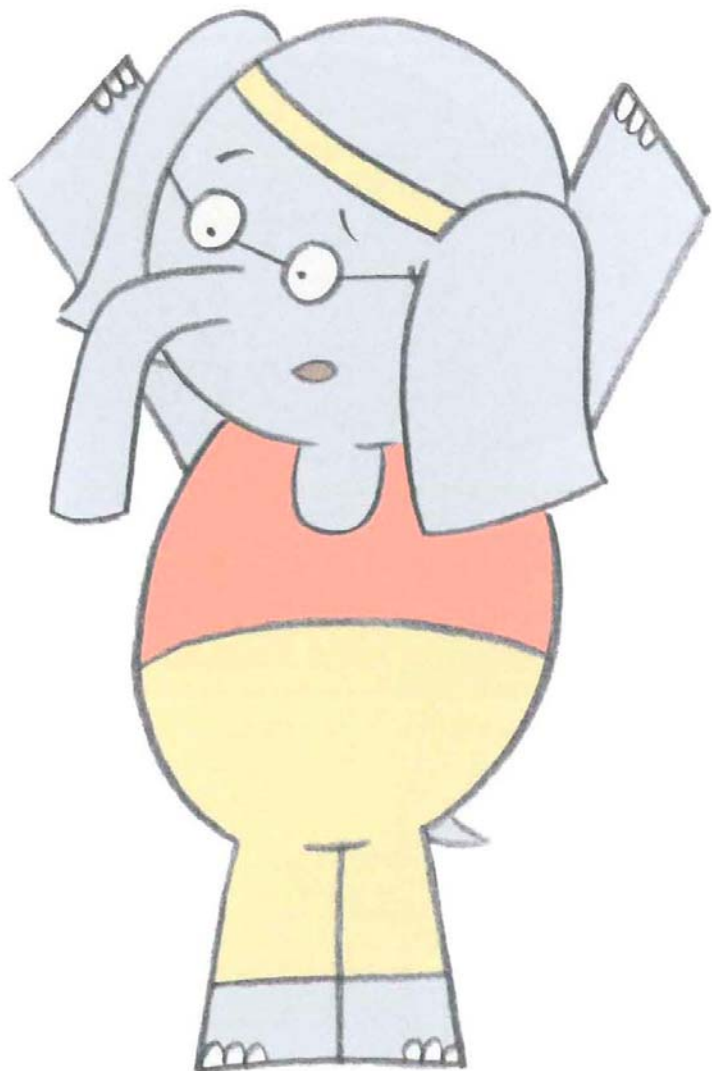
Move your arms  
this way.



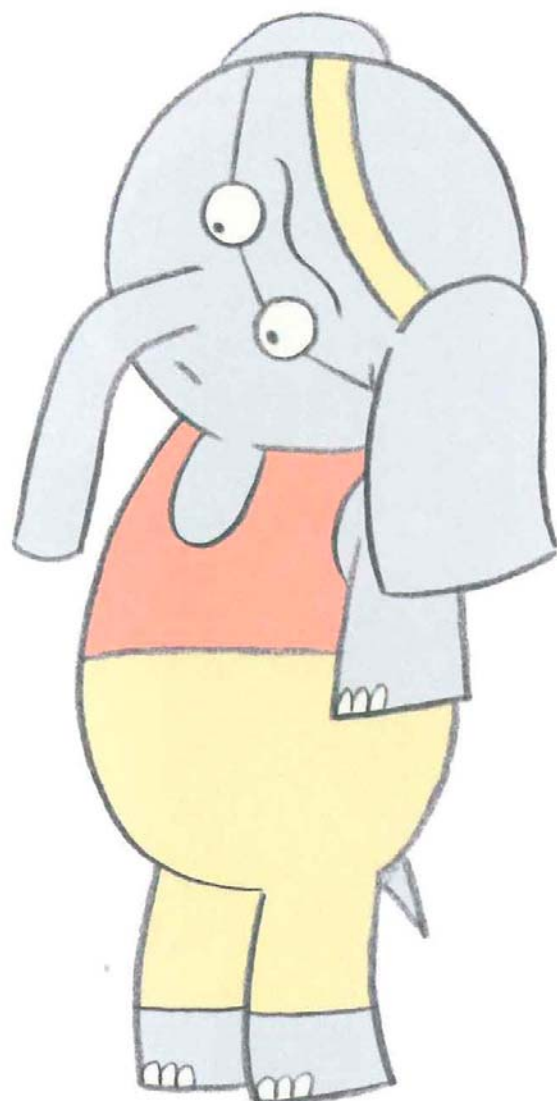


We will  
try again.

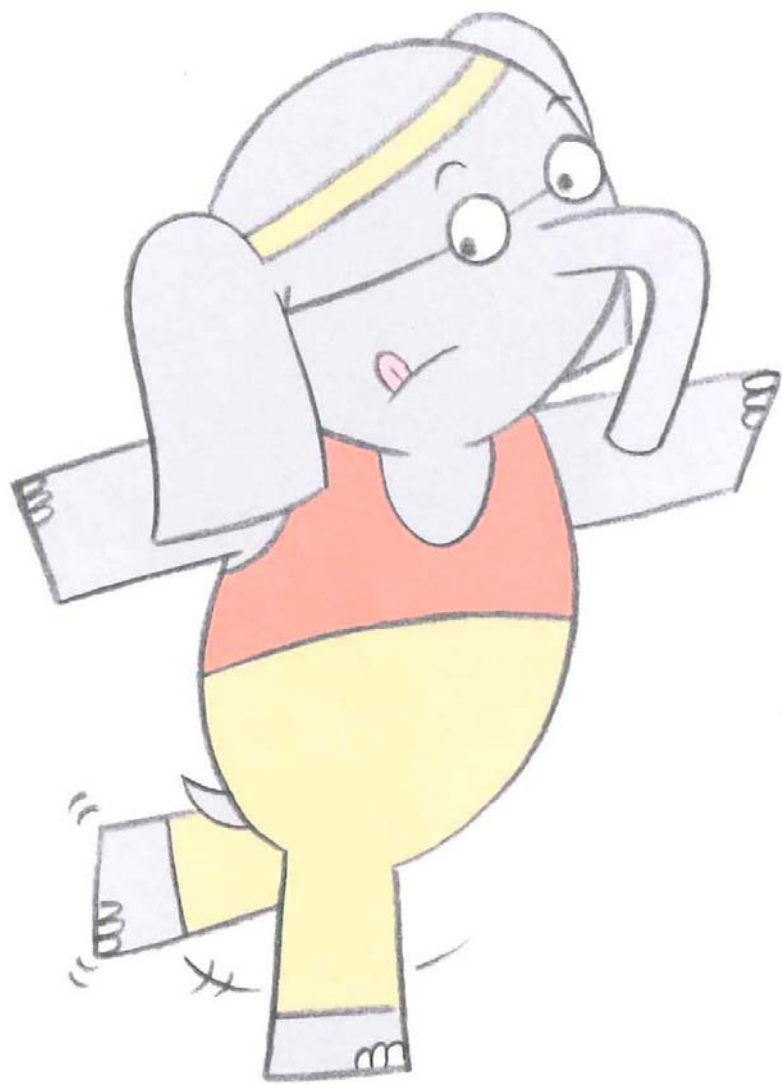
We will  
try again.



Lift your leg  
this way.



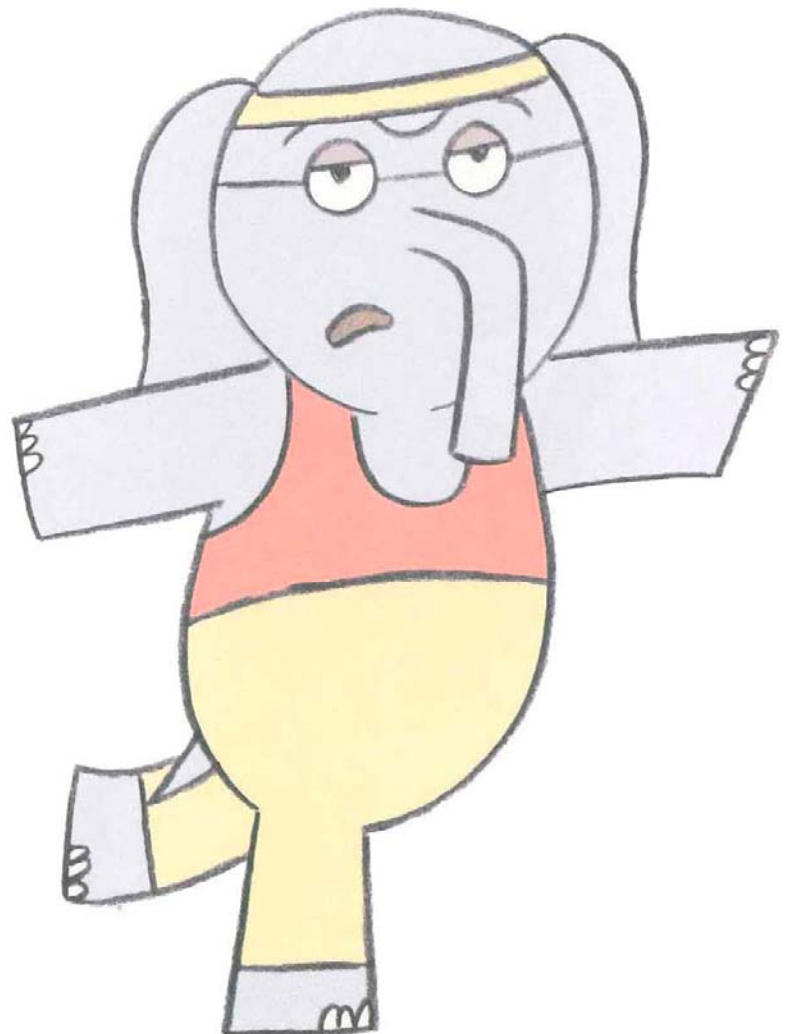




We will  
try again.

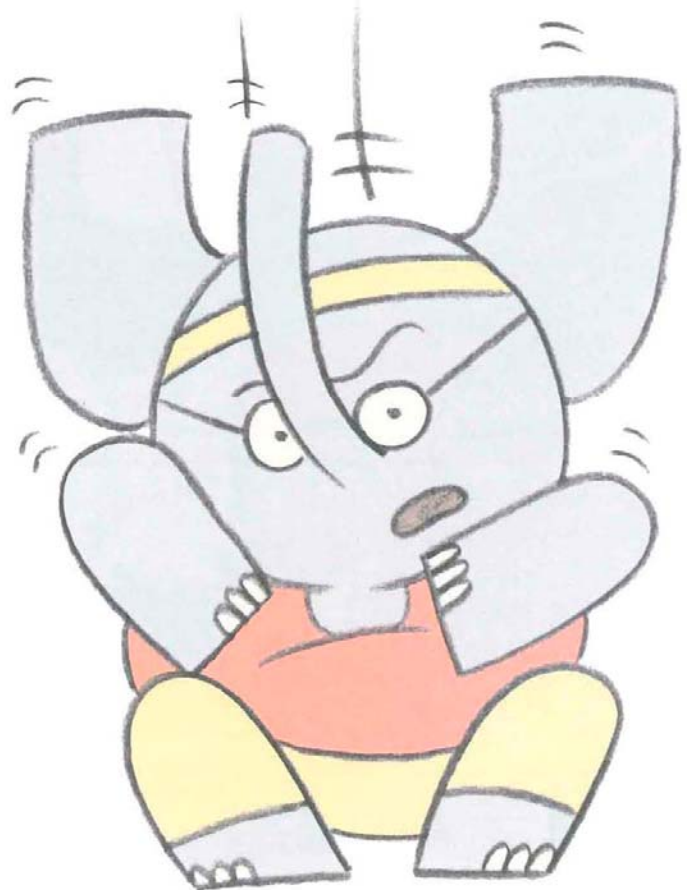


We will  
try again.



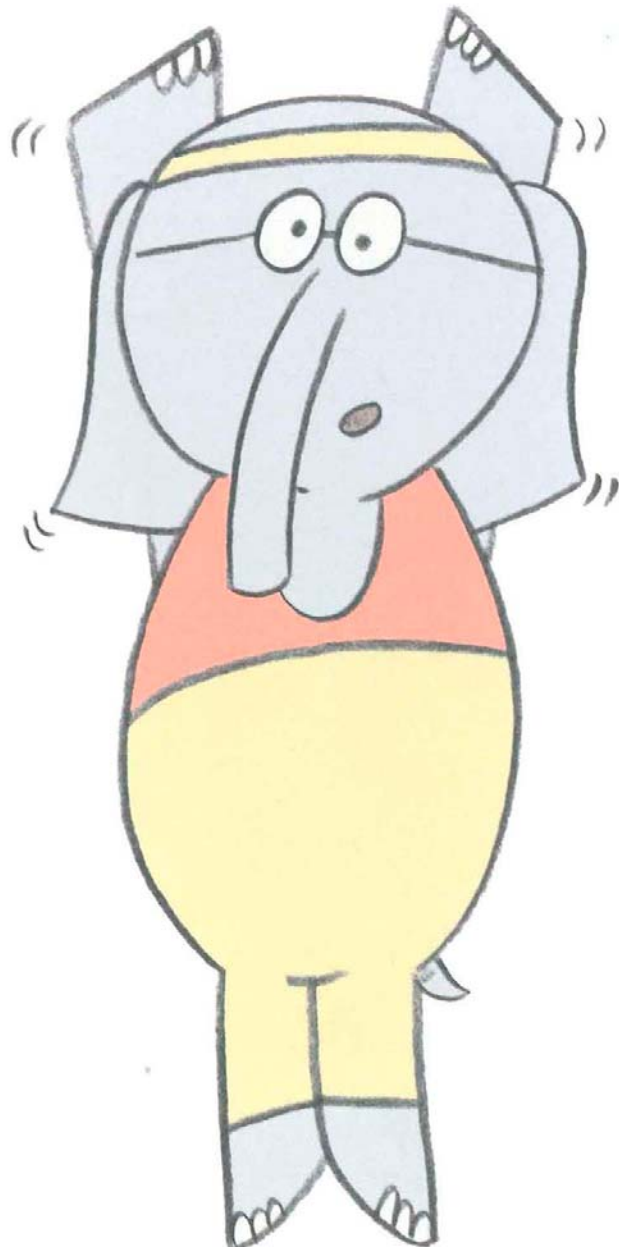
Up!

Up?



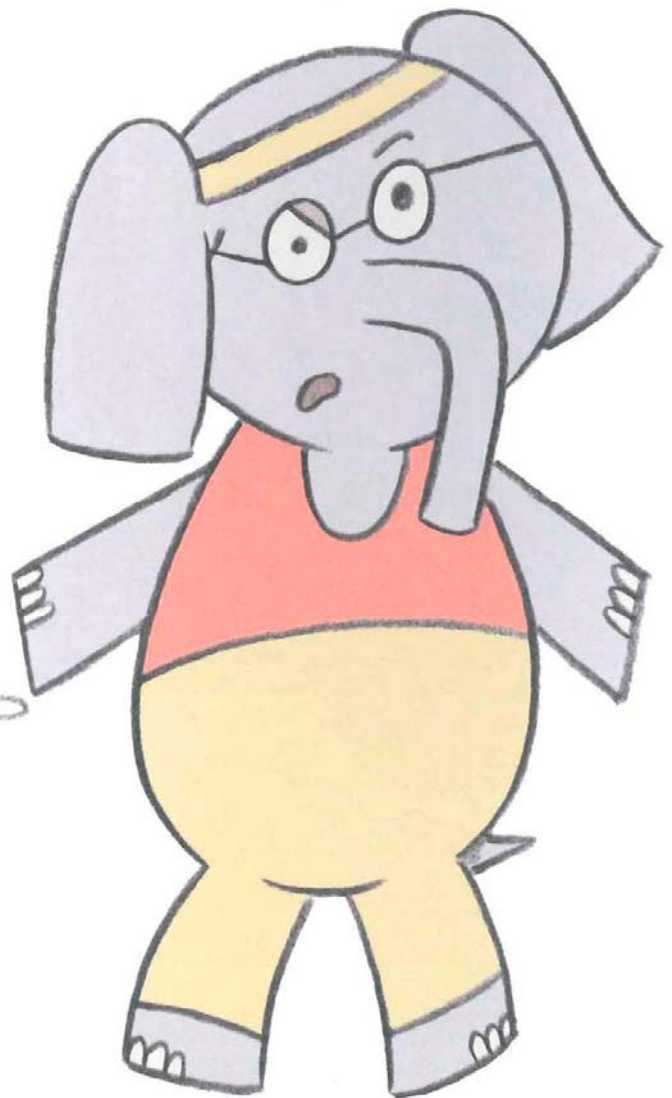
Down!

Down?



Spin!

Spin?





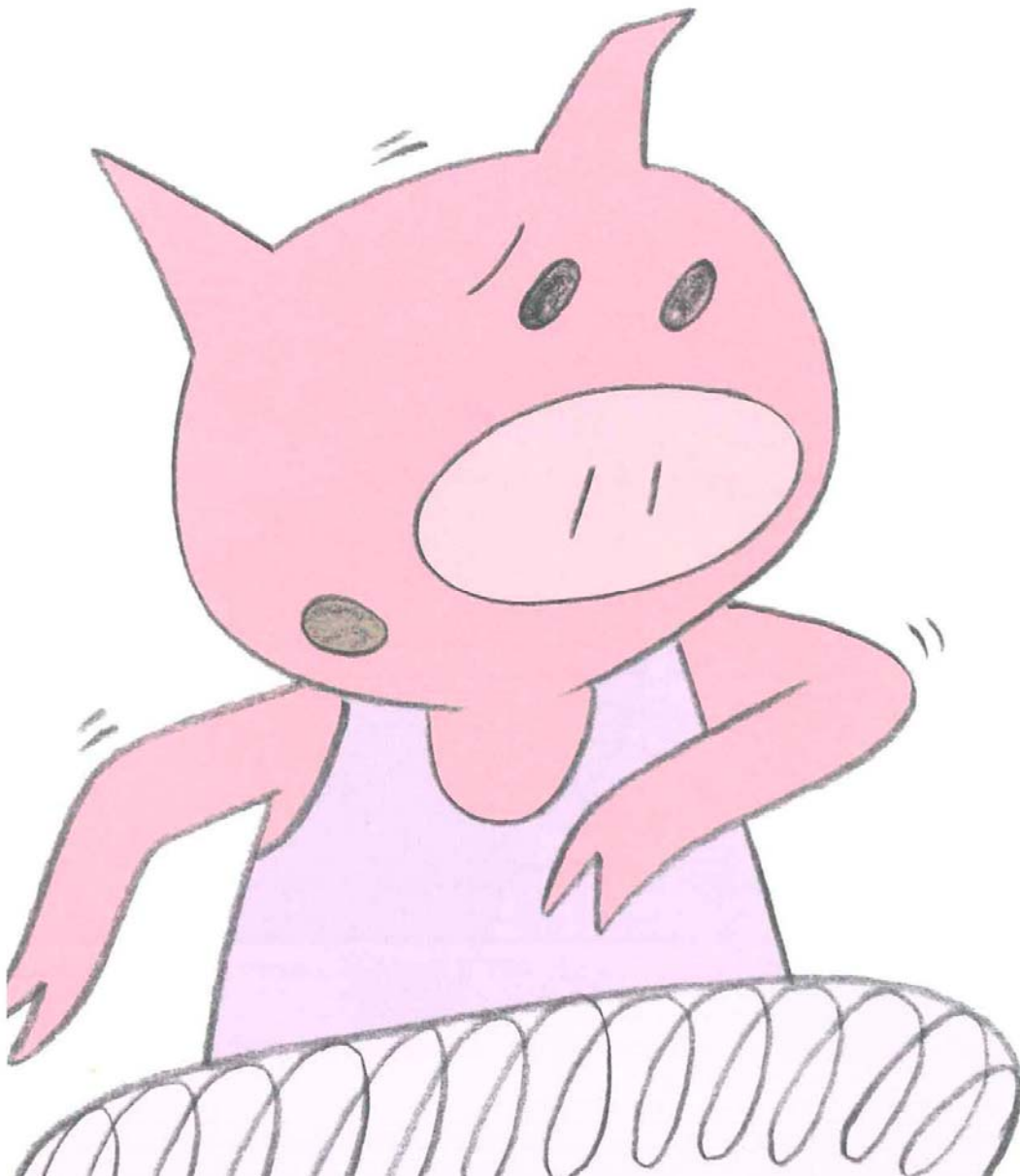
Stop!

Stop?



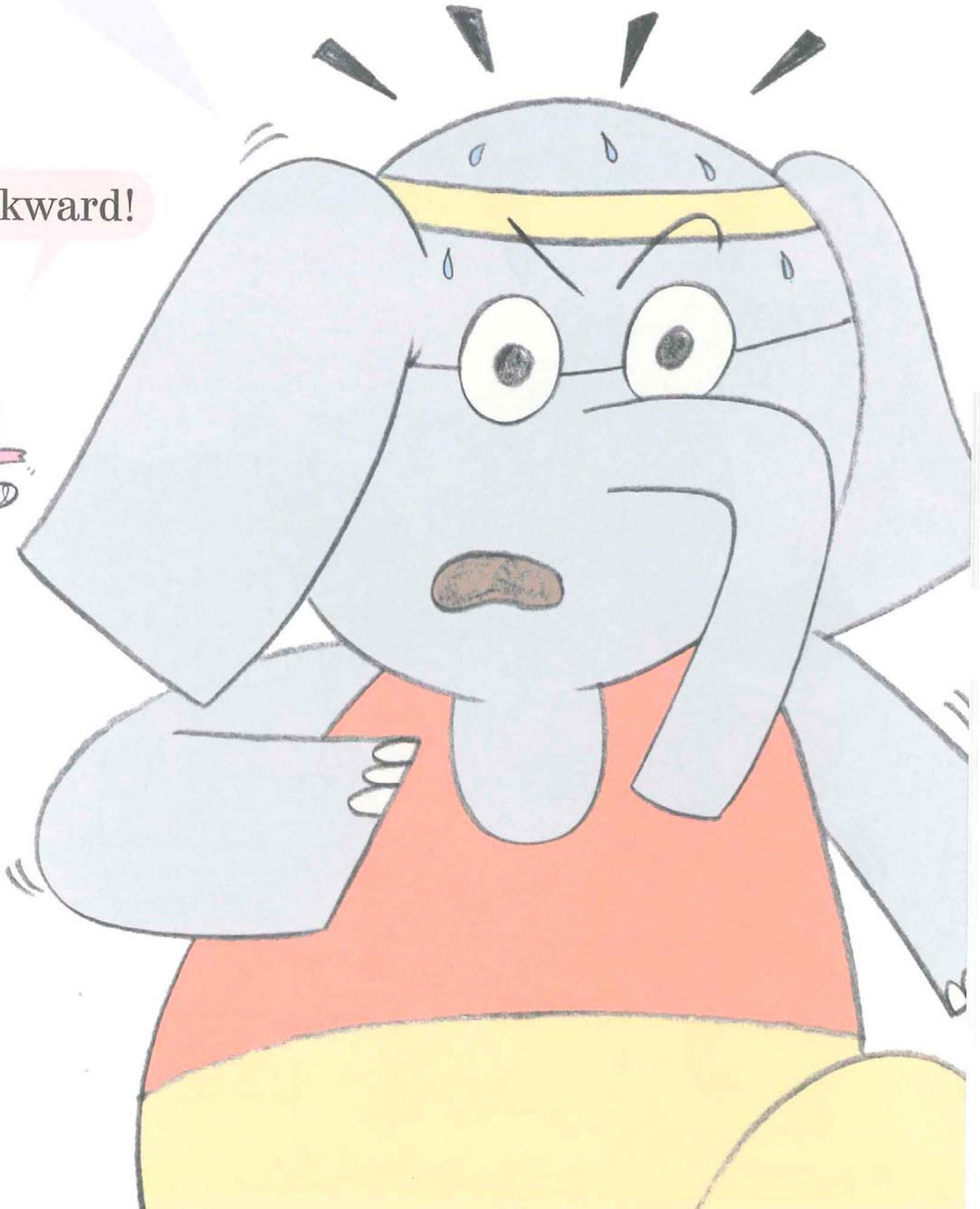
# Forward!

Forward?



# Backward?

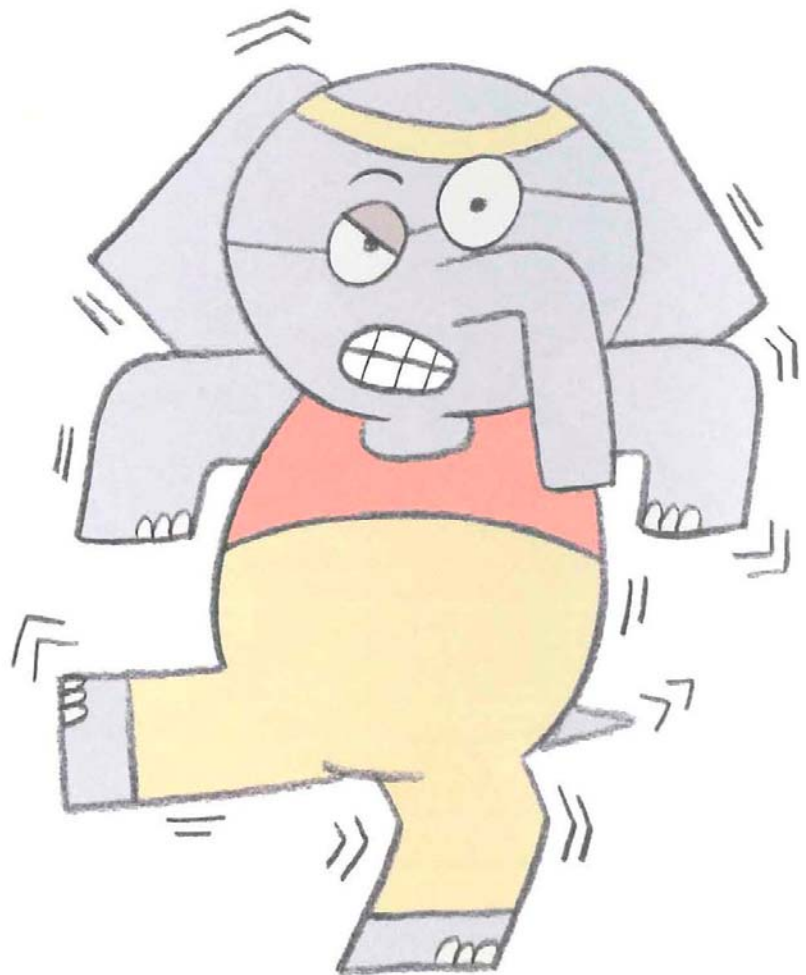
Backward!





Wiggle-waggle!

Wiggle-waggle?



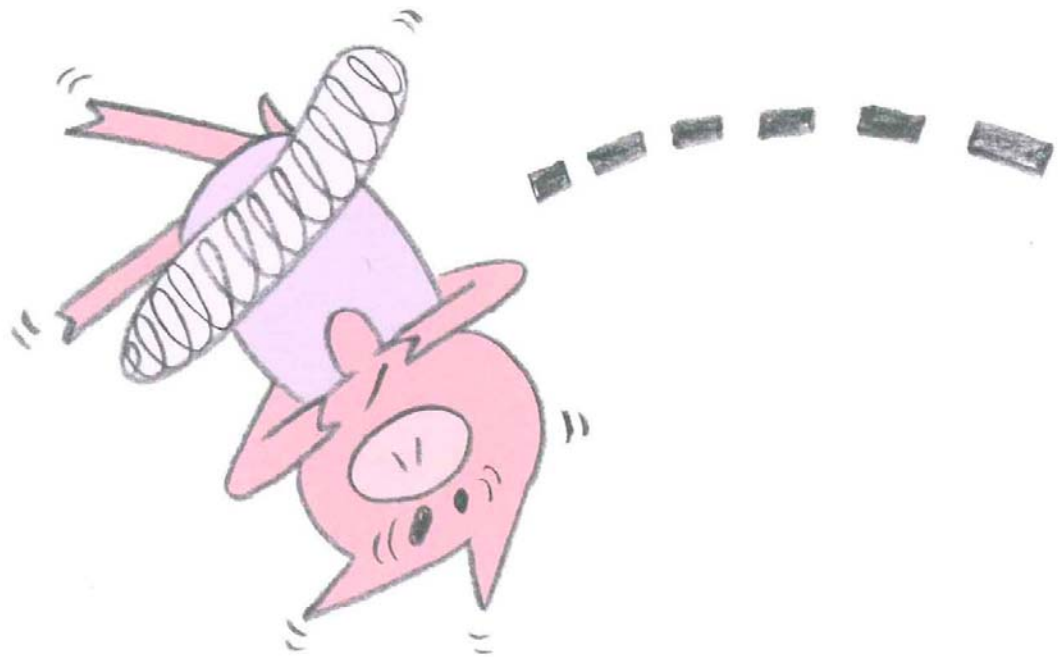
Robot walk!

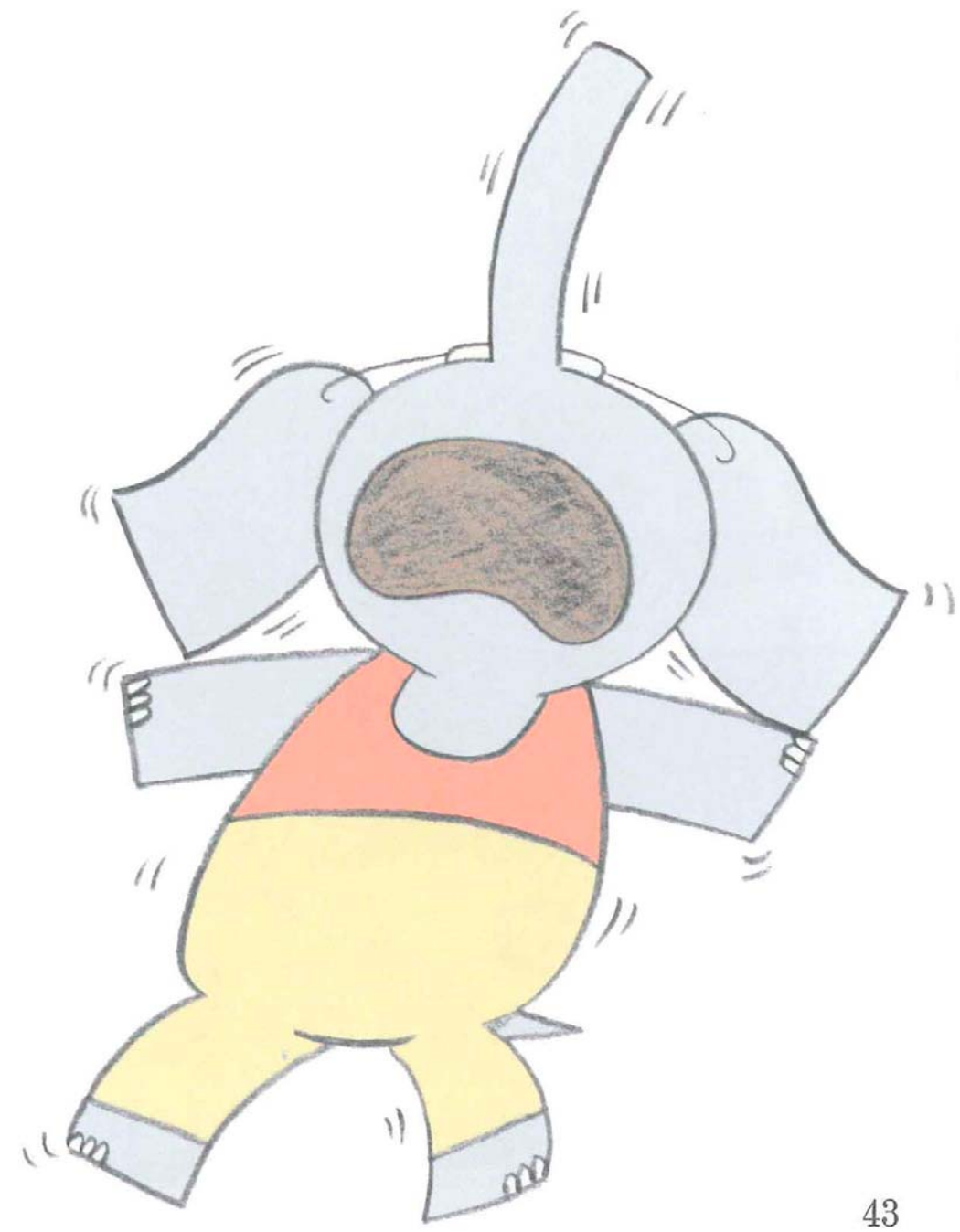
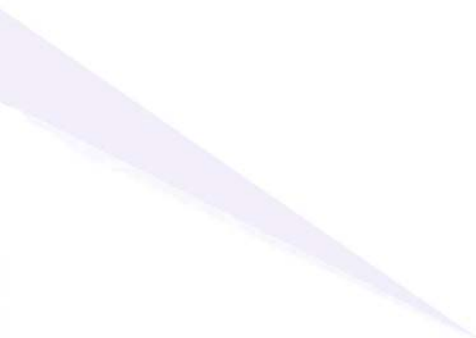
Robot walk?!





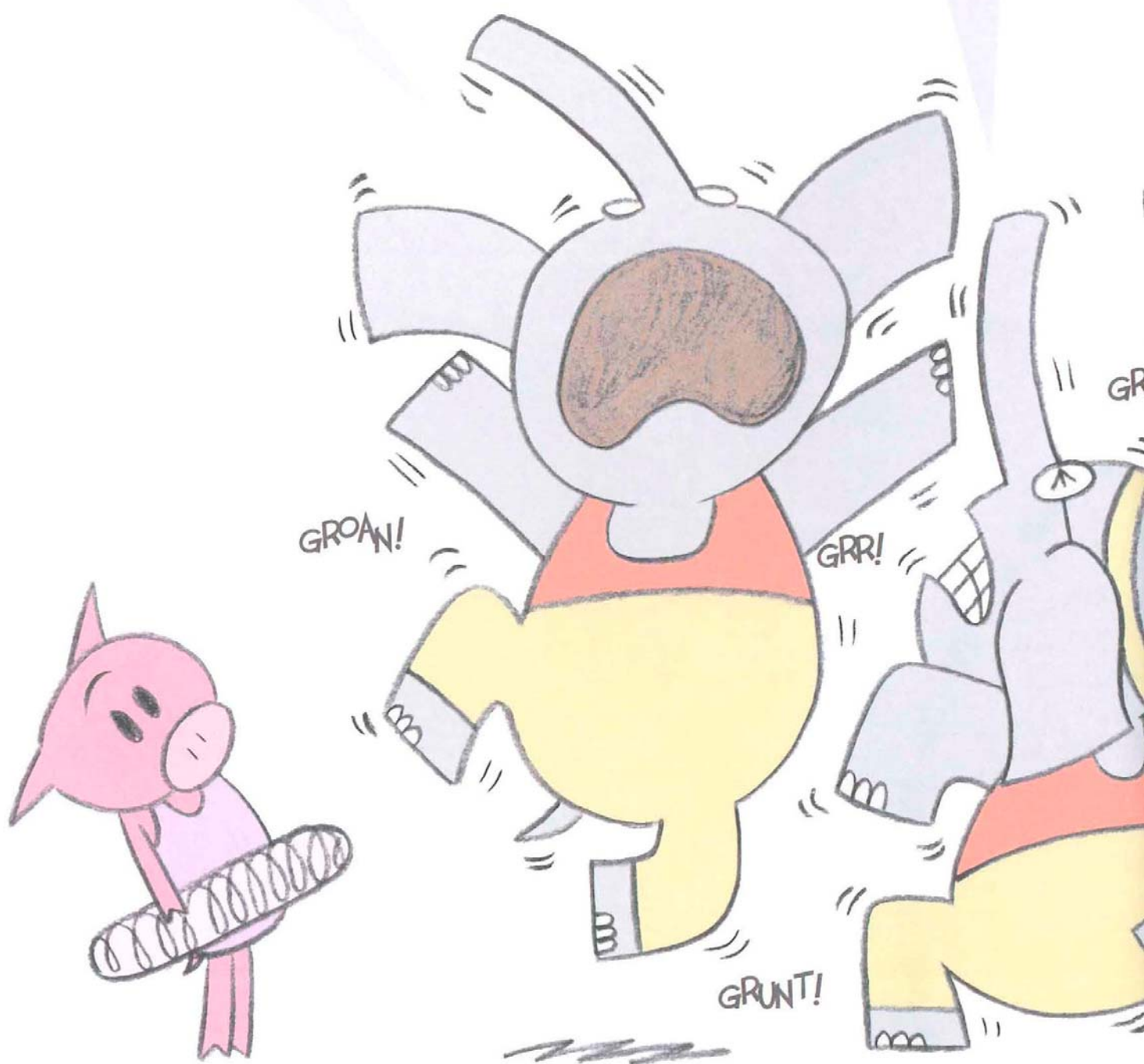
*ENOUGH!*





I HAVE  
TRIED!

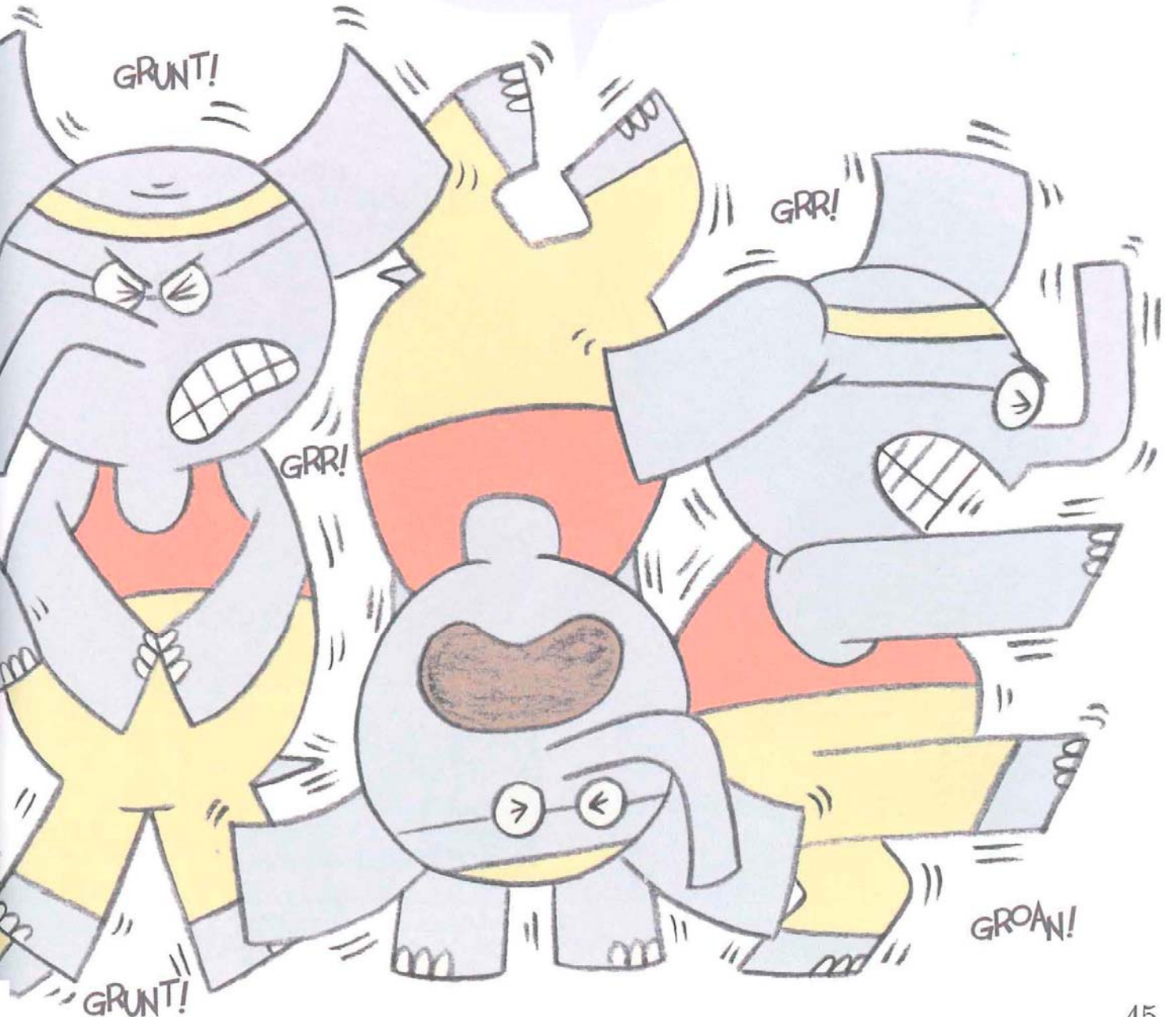
AND  
TRIED!



AND  
TRIED!

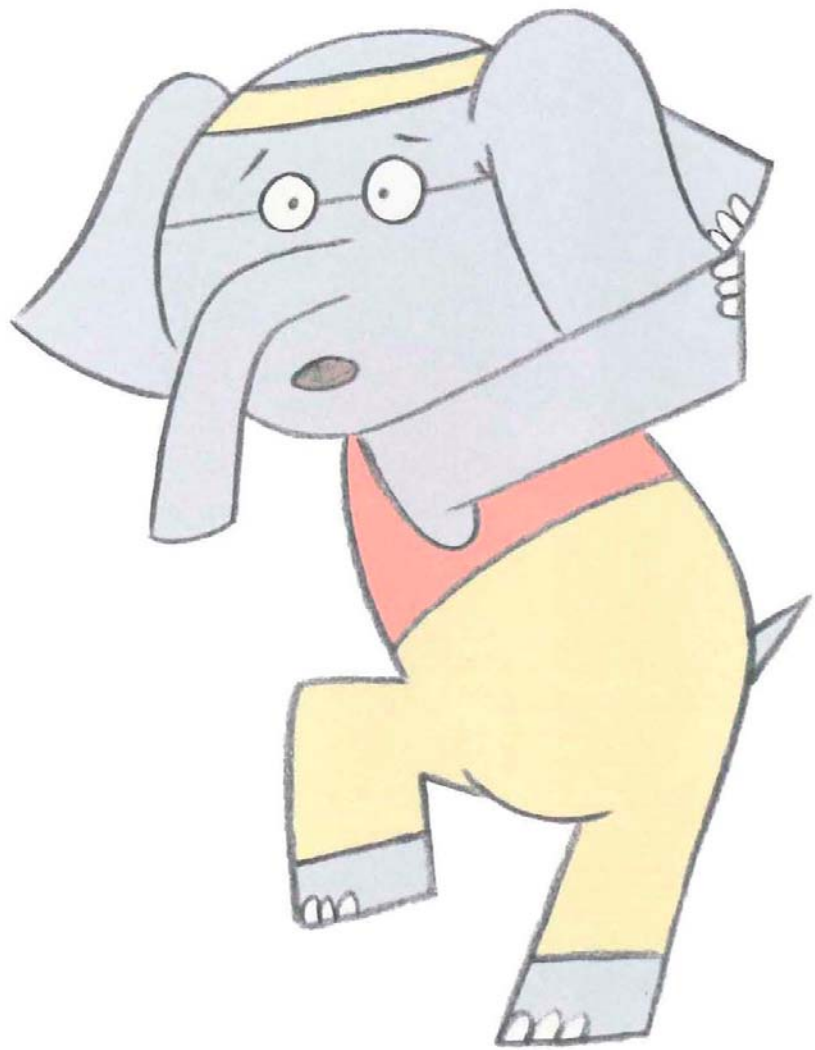
AND  
TRIED!

AND  
TRIED!



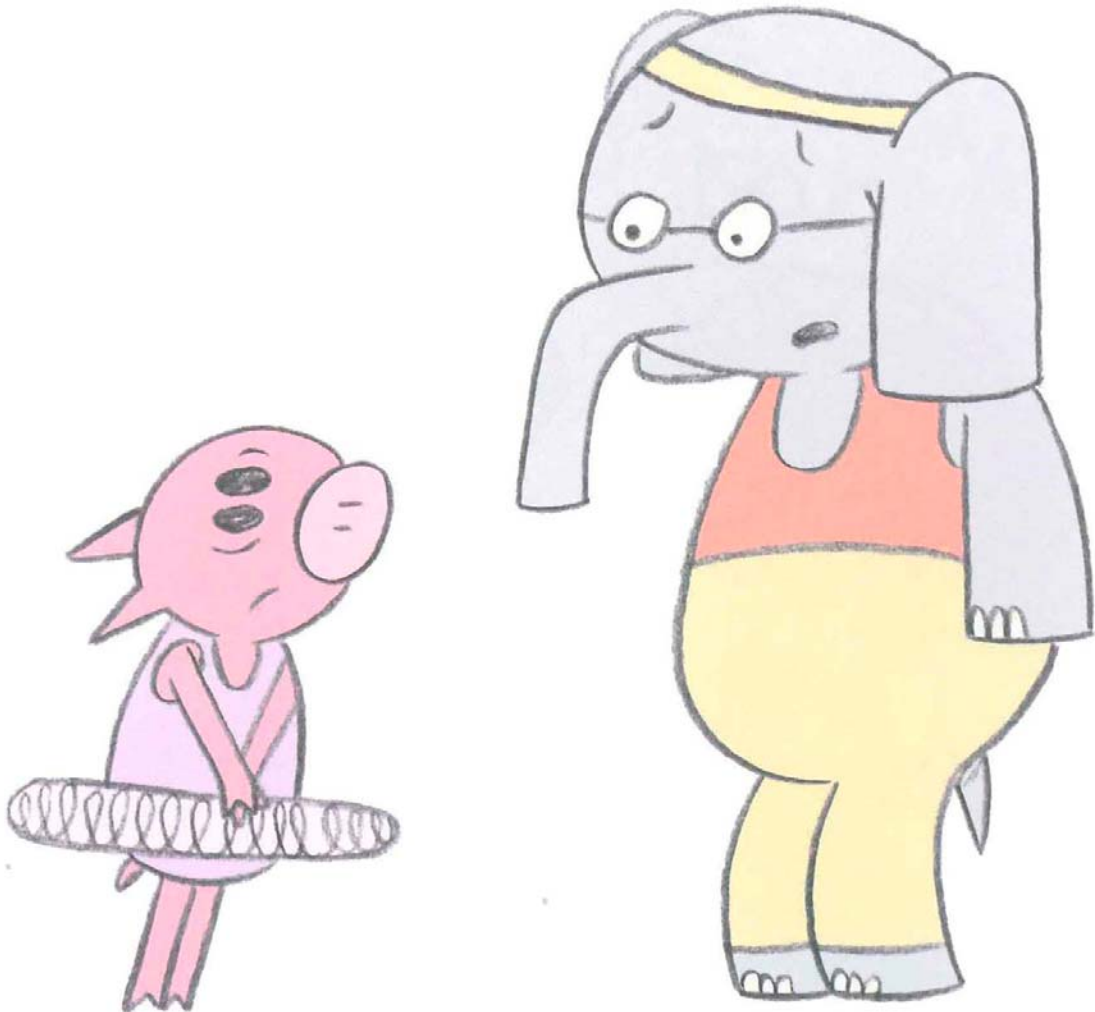


But I am  
an elephant.





And elephants  
just cannot dance.

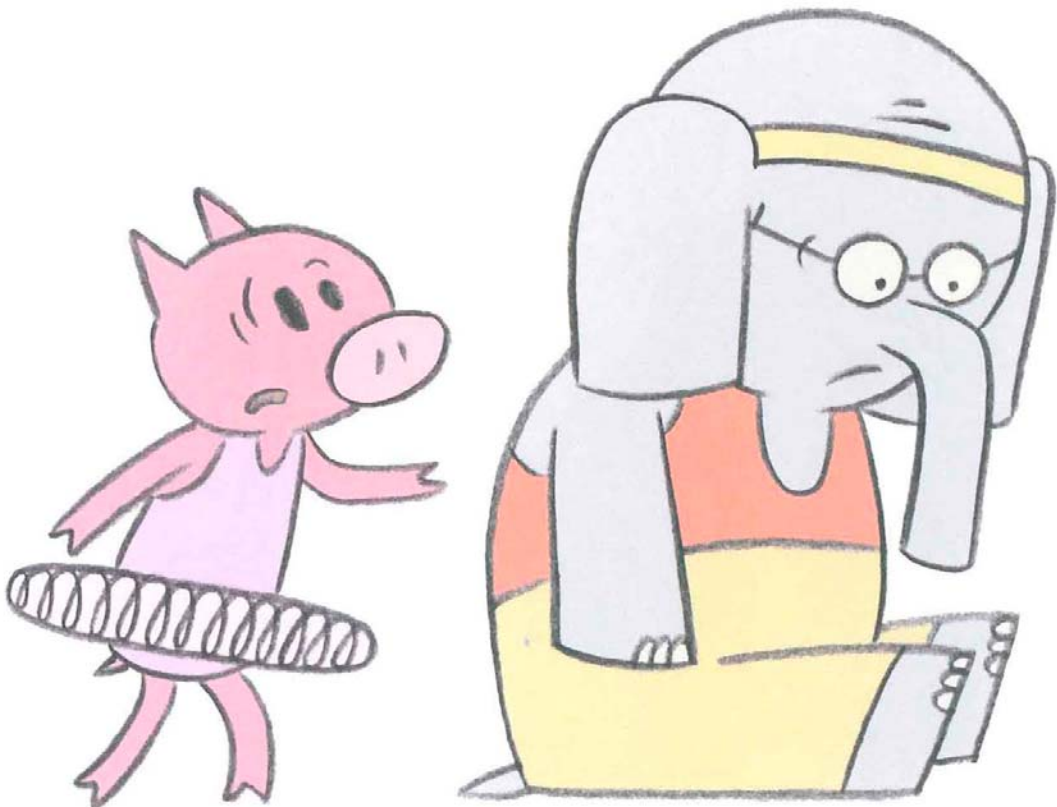




PLOP!



Oh, Gerald . . .



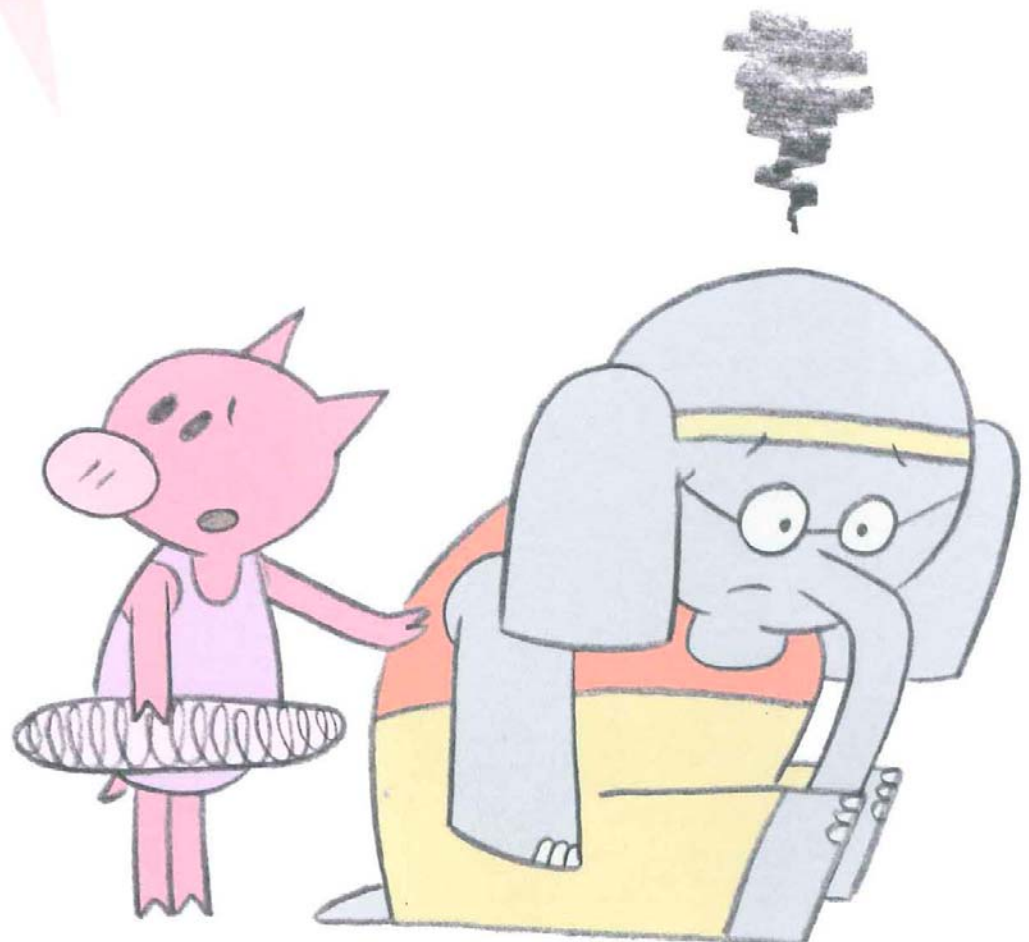
Hello-o-o-o-o-o-o!

We are ready  
to learn some  
moves!



I am sorry. I cannot  
teach you now.

My friend is sad.

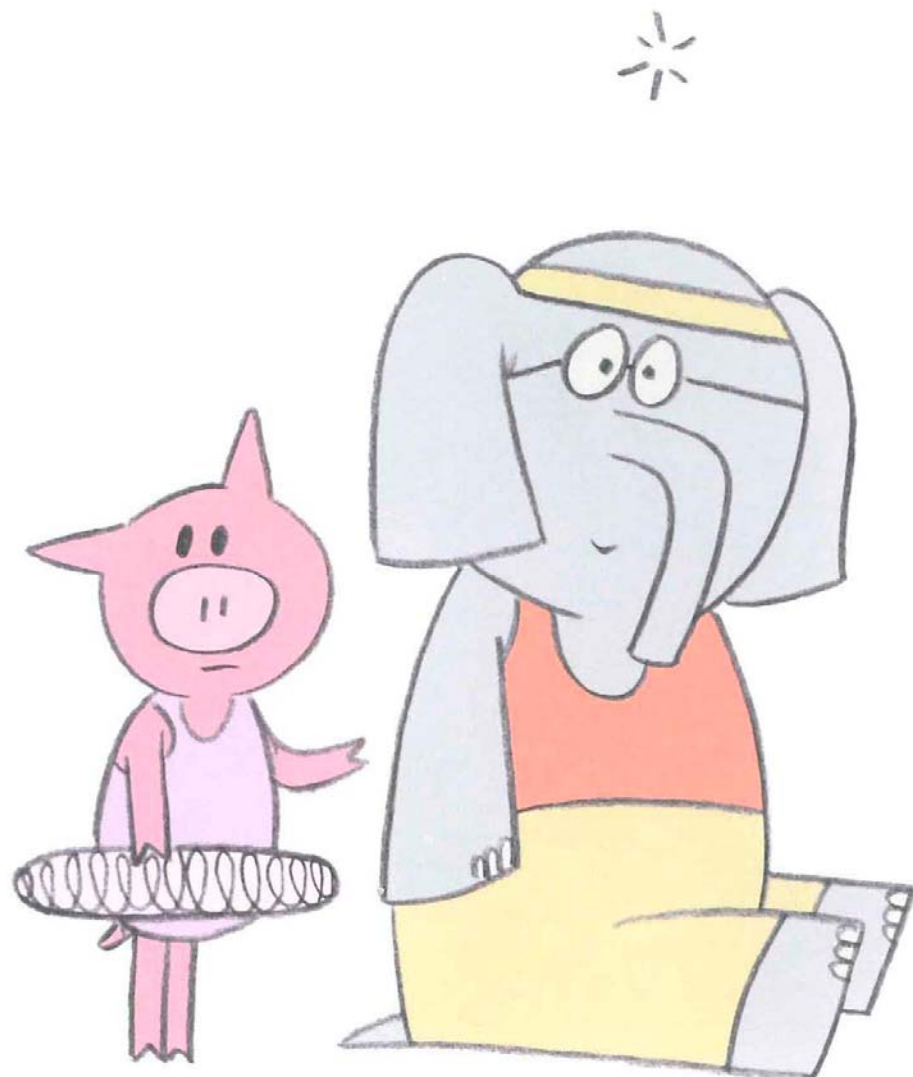




Silly! We do not want  
*you* to teach us!

We want to learn  
“The Elephant”!



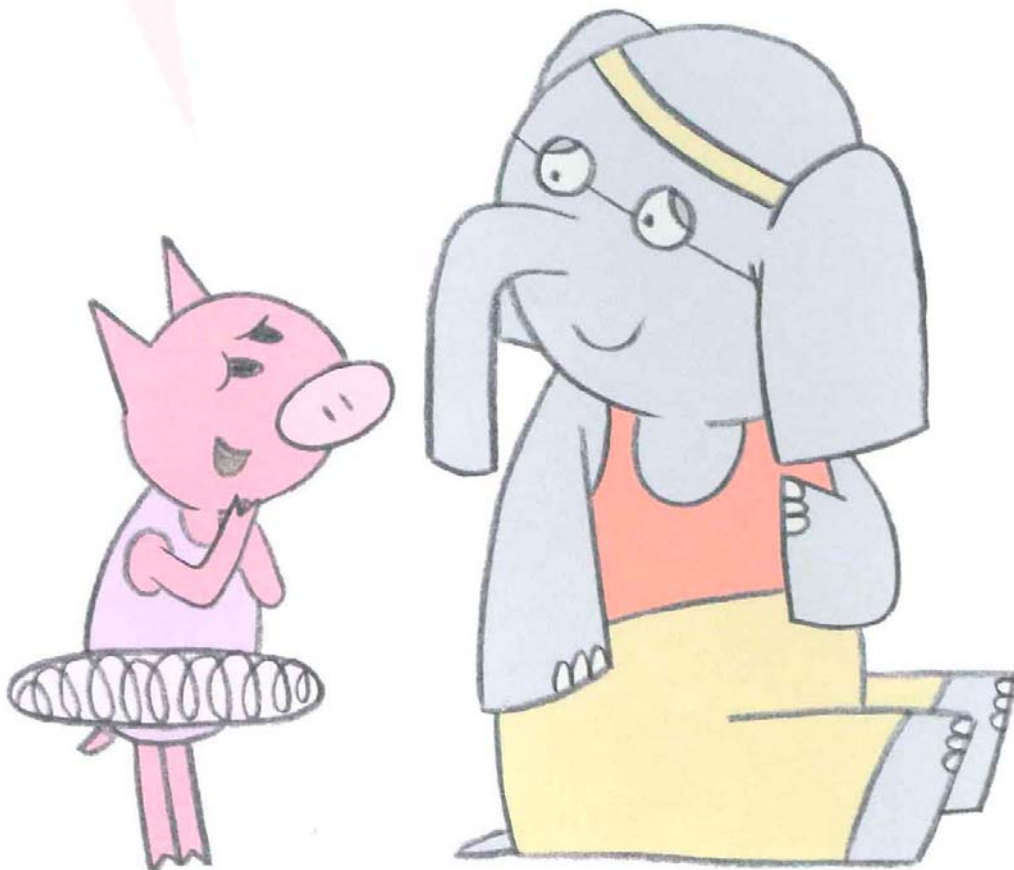


Teach me,  
please!

Me too!



Me three!



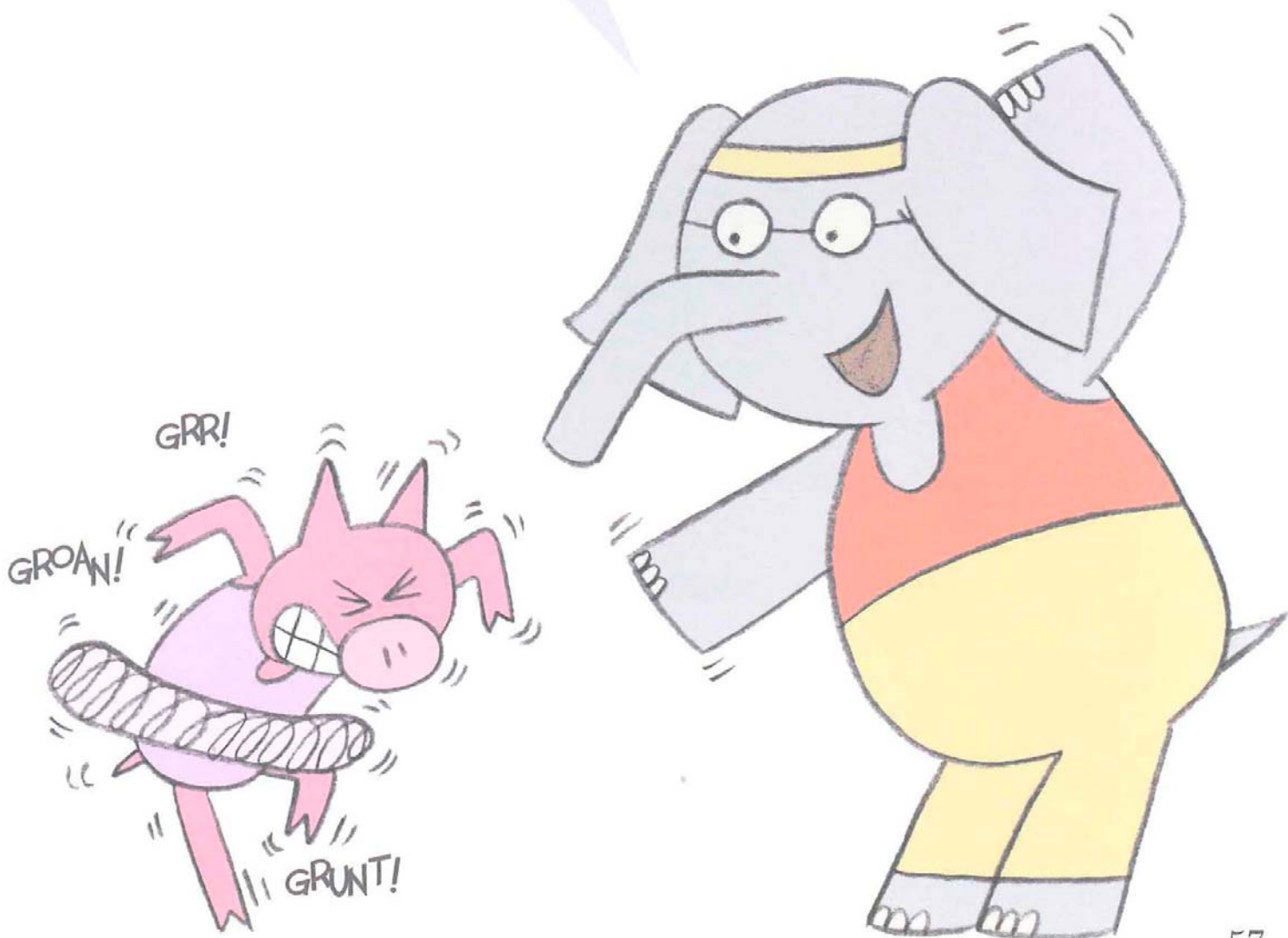
More feeling!

Keep trying!





You are getting it!

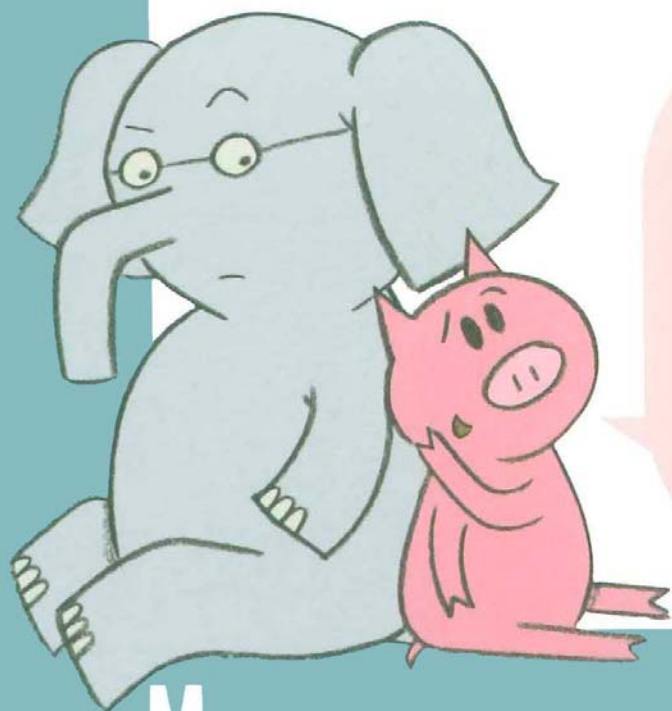


# Meet Elephant Gerald and Piggie.

winners of the Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal for *There Is a Bird on Your Head!*

Gerald is careful. Piggie is not.  
Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can.  
Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to.  
Gerald and Piggie are best friends.

In *Elephants Cannot Dance!* Piggie tries to teach Gerald some new moves. But will Gerald teach Piggie something even more important?



★“These books will easily take their place alongside Seuss and Eastman as classics in the beginning-reader genre.”

—*The Bulletin* (starred review)

★“These masterful mini-dramas will delight and amuse easy-reader and picture-book audiences, alike.”

—*School Library Journal* (starred review)

**Mo  
Willems**

a number one *New York Times* best-selling author and illustrator, has been awarded a Caldecott Honor on three occasions (for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*, and *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*). Other favorites include *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* and *Leonardo, the Terrible Monster*.

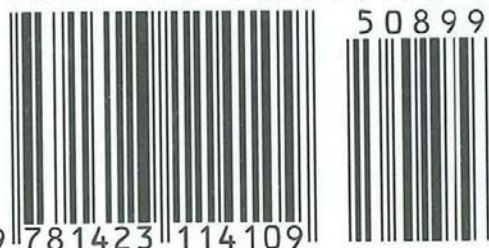
Mo began his career on *Sesame Street*, where he garnered six Emmy Awards.

HYPERION BOOKS FOR CHILDREN/*New York*

\$8.99 US/Priced higher in Canada  
Ages 4–8

Cover art © 2009 by Mo Willems  
Visit [www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com](http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com)  
and [www.pigeonpresents.com](http://www.pigeonpresents.com)

ISBN 978-142311410-9



50899

9 781423 114109

Don't miss the other **Elephant & Piggie** books!