

The King's Elephant

based on a traditional Chinese tale



VARIANT TALE LITERATURE

Level **F/10**

Lexile® **430L**

Variant Tale

Use the genre information below to help you read this book.

A version of a fairytale or folktale, often from a certain culture.

Different versions of the tale all follow a similar story line.

Variant Tale

The story may have an unexpected twist.

Characters or setting may be new to the story, but the basic story line is the same.

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ISBN: 978-1-5322-4897-9

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145 Huguenot Street • New Rochelle, NY • 10801

Once upon a time there was
a king who had an elephant.



It was blue and very big!
The king was small, but he
felt big and powerful sitting
on his elephant.



The people asked their king,
“How much does the
elephant weigh?”

The king did not know,
but he wanted to find out.



“Does anyone know how to weigh an elephant?” asked the king.



There were many people,
but no one answered.
Finally, a little boy came forward.



“I am going to tell you how to weigh an elephant,” said the little boy.



“Really?” said the king.

“But you are just a little boy!”

The king asked the people again.



“I am very clever,” said the little boy. “I can explain.”

Everyone rode with the king to the harbor.

