



The Toad that eats tigers

This story has been adapted from a tale by Mrs Somvone Siamphay in 'Laos Folktales : Tales of Turtles, tigers and toads' retold by Steve Epstein 1995. Illustrated by the Luang Prabang Library staff, with the support of Drawingtolearn and the Belmont Rotary club. October 2020

'Who is the King of the jungle?' asked the tiger as he stalked proudly through the jungle.

'You' said the bullocks

'You are the King of the jungle.' said the deer.

'You' said the birds.... 'Everyone knows that You ...Mr Tiger are King of the jungle' agreed the moon bear.



The tiger smiled and roared and said 'You are right!
I am the King of the jungle... just do not forget it!!!'



On that same day, in the same jungle, a small animal hopped.
This animal looked like a frog, hopped like a frog and ate flies like a frog but it was NOT a frog.
It was an ugly toad with big brown bumps on its back.
The toad was in a hurry to chase a fly.
Unfortunately, the toad did not see the tiger and he hopped right in front of him.



'Roar' bellowed the tiger. 'Do you know who I am?

I am the King of the jungle and you just crossed my path. Aren't you afraid of me?'

'Oh hello Mr Tiger..I am NOT afraid of you.' said the toad. 'Why should I be???

'I am the KING OF THE JUNGLE and all animals are afraid of me'

replied the tiger. 'I can kill you with one swing of my paw.'



‘Ha!! Ha !!’ laughed the toad.

‘I am not afraid of you. I ate a tiger yesterday. It was soooo delicious. The tiger looked just like you. Do you have a brother?’

‘You ate a tiger?’ asked the tiger with surprise. ‘You really ate a tiger?’

‘Yes, I didn’t eat the bones... just the meat. Tiger meat is so delicious.... so tasty,’ said the toad as he licked his toad lips with his long toad tongue.



‘You ate a tiger? asked the tiger again with amazement.’Yes, I eat a tiger once a week. It’s good for my health ‘ said the toad.
‘You really ate a tiger? ‘ the tiger asked again with alarm. ‘Yes, Mr Tiger...I have to go now. It was nice talking with you. Come visit me back here next week. I will be hungry by then. Now go and find some animals to eat and get yourself nice and fat. See you next week. Goodbye.....’ said the toad as he hopped back into the forest.



The frightened Tiger ran back into the forest he ran through the trees, he ran up the mountains, he jumped over streams and finally he sat down to catch his breath under a tree.



A monkey who was sitting above him in the tree called out to him.

‘King tiger ..what’s the problem? Why are you running so fast? Where are you going?’

‘I met this animal’ said the Tiger....’he says he eats tigers. I am so afraid. I am scared that he will eat me. He loves eating tigers.

‘What?’ said the monkey

‘What are you saying? No animal eats tigers. You are the King of the jungle. Tell me what is this animal?’ ‘It looked like a frog but was very ugly and had big brown bumps on its back’ replied the Tiger.



'He He He her he heeeee ha ha ha ha ha' laughed the monkey.

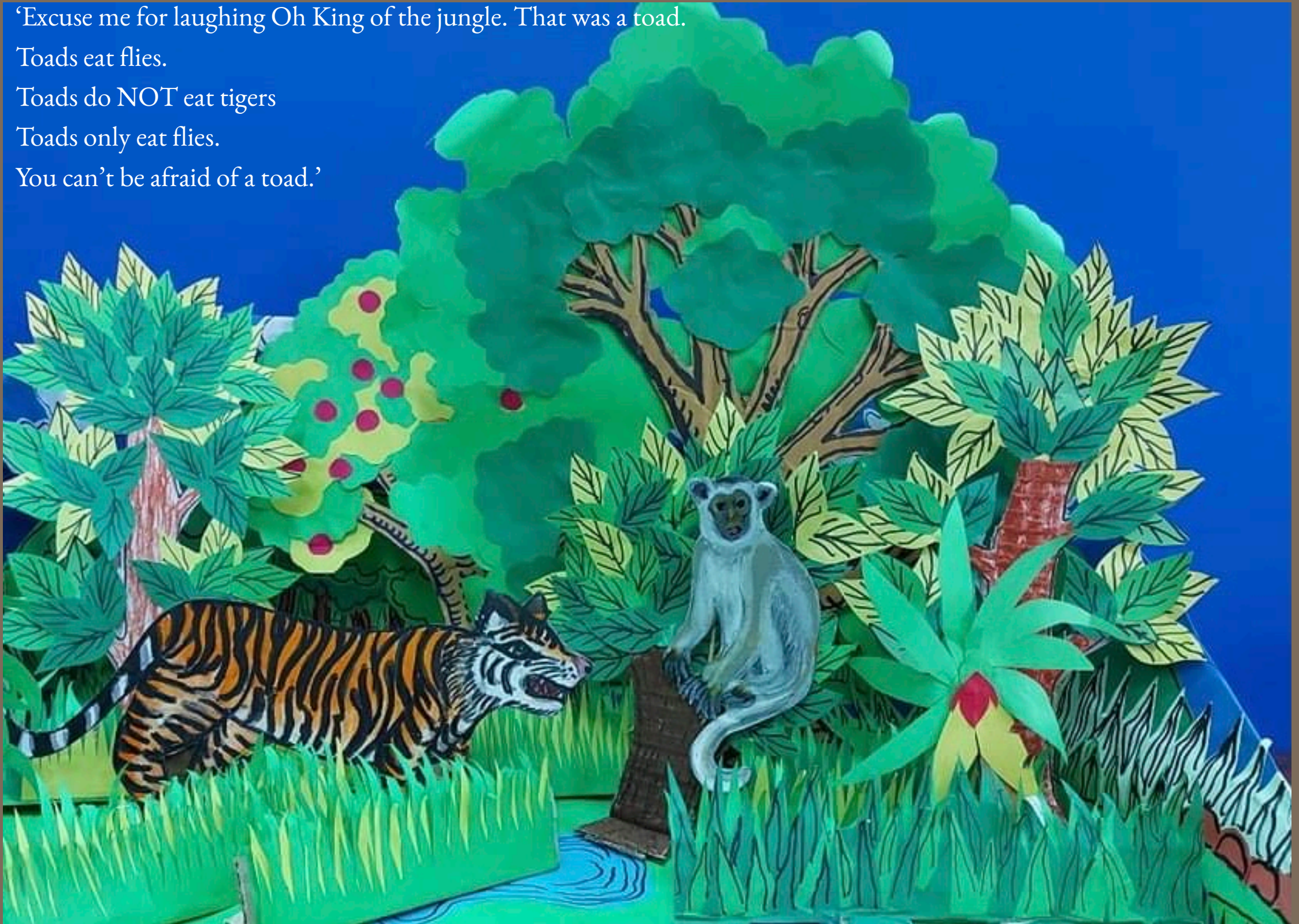
'Excuse me for laughing Oh King of the jungle. That was a toad.

Toads eat flies.

Toads do NOT eat tigers

Toads only eat flies.

You can't be afraid of a toad.'



'But the toad told me that he eats tigers' ... said the tiger. 'He eats them!!'

'He he he he he he hah hahhhahhh Do you believe THAT???'

A little tiny ugly toad can eat a tiger???'

Come on..Let's go back together and find this toad' said monkey



'I am so afraid ' said the tiger. 'I am so afraid. Did this animal lie to me??

Me..the King of the jungle?'

'Come on King Tiger let's go see this toad. I will make him tell the truth,' said monkey

'He he he he haaa haha !!! Excuse me for laughing that is very rude of me.'



Let's go together.

Let's tie our tails together if you are so afraid.'

So, the tiger and the monkey tied their tails together and walked back down the path through the jungle.



They met toad back on the jungle path. 'Oh hello monkey..thanks for coming back with Tiger ..I was waiting for him to come back so I could eat him.. now you have brought me two tigers so far... that's so fantastic. You did promise me that you would bring me 10 tigers though.. remember?? Just take the tiger over there to the great big tree.I will eat him later for my dinner. Thanks very very much for bringing him to me.' said toad



‘What!!’ said the tiger... ‘You lied to me.... you idiot monkey. You lied. This toad is going to eat me... I told you so.’
The tiger raced back through the forest, crossed the river, climbed the mountains and then came to rest under a big tree, but he only remembered when he sat down that he still had the monkey clinging to his tail.





BONK!! the monkey's head hit the tree
CRASH!! the monkey's leg hit the rocks,
WHAM!! the monkey's arms hit the bamboo
CLONK!! the monkey's head hit another rock.

Finally, the Tiger sat still and looked back at the poor monkey still clinging to his tail.

‘Well, monkey... so YOU are frightened of the toad too??

So it is true. THE TOAD MUST BE THE KING OF THE JUNGLE!!!’



So..the Toad is the King of the jungle?



Illustrations by Chanthany,
Sengdao, Singsai, Khaek Noi
and Ni from the Luang Prabang
library. October 2020

