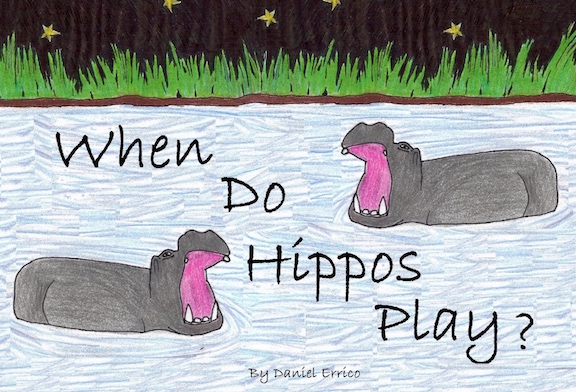
**When do Hippos Play?**



by [Daniel Errico](https://www.freechildrenstories.com/when-do-hippos-play)

By the African river, known as the Nile

The sun fell away and it rested a while

The rhinos had braved all the heat

They lay down to sleep as they wiped off their feet



The elephants marched to their elephant beds

And gently they rested their elephant heads

The hippos went bathing in cool, shallow pools

Thinking the rhinos and elephants fools



 Slowly the hippos sank into the river

The water so cold that it gave them a shiver

(Hippos can't swim, like the pelicans think

They also can't float, they could easily sink)

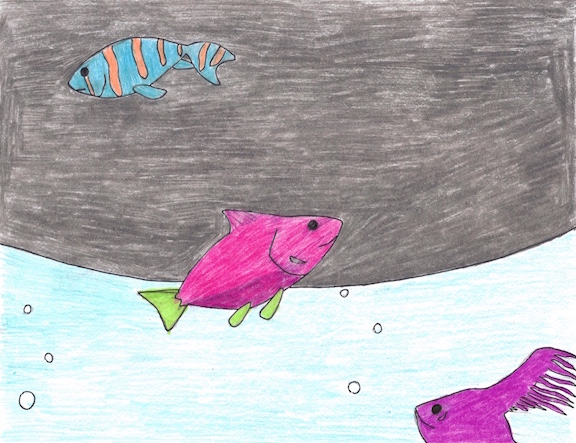


Underwater, they fell to the soft river bed

On darkish green plants with a smidgen of red

They strolled on the bottom, then bounced up for air

They did it for hours, without any care



The fish followed closely, and wove in an out

Under their belly, and up to their snout

Each of the hippos came up to the shore

To feed on the grass by the river once more

They dried off their bodies by shaking and stomping

And took bites of grass, chewing and chomping



 With night fading fast, they were full from the feast

The sun returned back, rising up from the east



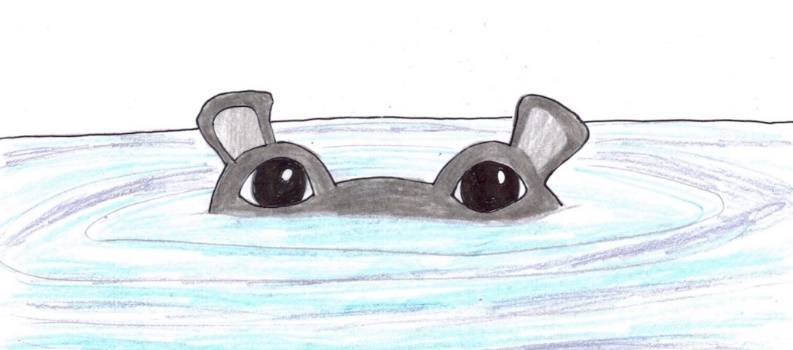
 The hippos crept off to collapse for the day

While rhinos and elephants got up to play



 Enjoying the warmth of the sun and its light

Never knowing the story of hippos at night



THE END

🙞🙜

**Post-Reading Task**

**1. Vocabulary**

For each bolded word from in the story, write down its Part of Speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction) and its meaning in the following table. Some examples are shown.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Part of Speech** | **Definition / Meaning** |
| **rhino (rhinoceros)** | noun | A very large, thick-skinned animal from Africa that has one or two horns on its nose. |
| **brave** *(had braved)* | verb | To show courage. |
| **shallow** |  |  |
| **sink** *(sank)* |  |  |
| **shiver** |  |  |
| **pelican** |  |  |
| **float** |  |  |
| **river bed** |  |  |
| **darkish** | adjective | Something that is of dark or black color. |
| **smidgen** |  |  |
| **stroll** |  |  |
| **weave** *(wove)* |  |  |
| **snout** |  |  |
| **Shore** |  |  |
| **stomp** *(stomping)* |  |  |
| **feast** |  |  |
| **creep off** *(crept off)* |  |  |

**2. Questions about the story**

1) What did the hippos brave?

2) Where do hippos bathe?

3) Can hippos float?

4) What does a 'smidgen of red' mean?

5) What do hippos feed on?