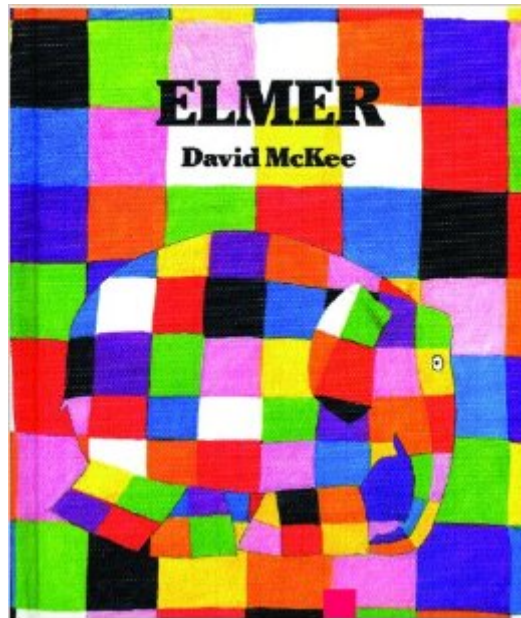


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# Elmer (Elmer Books)



## Synopsis

Elmer the elephant is bright-colored patchwork all over. No wonder the other elephants laugh at him! If he were ordinary elephant color, the others might stop laughing. That would make Elmer feel better, wouldn't it? The surprising conclusion of David McKee's comical fable is a celebration of individuality and the power of laughter. Elmer the elephant, a colorful character because of his patchwork hide and sense of humor, tries to blend in with the herd, but soon realizes that he's happiest just being himself. "McKee's gentle humor and love of irony are in full force in this celebration of individuality and laughter." -- Publisher's Weekly.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD500L (What's this?)

Series: Elmer Books

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1 edition (September 18, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0688091717

ISBN-13: 978-0688091712

Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 0.2 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (125 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,207 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Patchwork #20 in Â Books > Children's Books > Animals > Elephants #37 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

My daughters and I love this book, but I subtracted a star because it is not quite the same story I expected. We checked it out of the library a couple times, then had to have our own edition. The story and illustrations are slightly changed. My daughters, ages 2 and 4, noticed the changes, and I think the story misses out a little. For example, the library book starts with a bit booming sound in the jungle and all the animals are startled, but then we find out it's just the herd of the happy elephants who are laughing. The book I just bought begins saying "There was once a herd of elephants," but

then it goes on to say that they were happy. Also, this edition does not have the bird who helps Elmer in covering himself with elephant-colored berries. Same story, but some very sweet details are missing. I don't know why they've shortened the story; maybe they think children cannot stay focused for the longer version. In any case, I will be looking for an older edition, or maybe there's a current book with the same story. Overall great book, but it has been better.

My five year old daughter and I have our favorite time of the day every evening when I am taking her to bed. Then we read, read, read and read. Both picture books and chapter books. It is important to keep on reading picture books to the kids also when they outgrow the age of a toddler. There are so many great pictures and art in picture books that can help the children widening their horizon. With four kids in the house we have a huge collection of children's books, and among them some absolute favorites. And Elmer belongs to this group. Elmer the elephant is different from the other elephants in the jungle. While the others are ordinary grey he has patchwork colors, yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, blue, green, black, white - what a wonderful way to repeat colors over and over for a little human being. But Elmer doesn't like to be different. He wants to be grey like the rest of the herd. Elmer finds a way to paint himself black, but to his, and to the young reader's surprise nobody recognizes him now when he is just as anybody else. Elmer is used to being seen, and has to do a trick to the others to be seen again. And the ending is in great honor to Elmer, the different one. And he has taught us a wonderful story about the importance of being the one you are meant to be, not to pretend being someone else. The story has given us great opportunities to talk about the importance of being the one we are. We are created unique and our strength is in keeping this uniqueness. The story has wonderful, simple paintings, bright colored. My five year old and I have a lot of fun making an applique quilt of Elmer and his life. This book is a jewel either you have children or not.

I read this book for a children's literature class at the college I attend. I WILL share this book with my students when I begin teaching because it teaches them the valuable lesson that Elmer learned. He was unhappy with who he was so he decided to change. All was fine until he realized who he was pretending to be wasn't himself. All children need the message: be yourself and be happy with yourself.

I have loved the Elmer books since I read the first one... Who wouldn't love a nice bright elephant? I bought this book and the plush and another elephant book to send to an unknown child for a book

exchange.

This Character and book demonstrate the most important message and that is to accept all that you are, especially if you don't neatly fit into a "typical" category! I love Elmer and can't wait to give it to my nephews and nieces.

Great book to use with young children. Good for concepts such as: colors, emotions, alike and different, everyone is special. IT also would be a great springboard for an art project for the early grades.

Great story about accepting who you are. Embracing the idea of not being just like everyone else....others love you for who you are. God created us all to be unique and special -- let children hear that message in this sweet, well written story!

I've always loved this book and my kindergarten students have as well! The pictures are great, the story is great, and the message in it is great! We are all important and it's okay to be different!

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