



Photo for FIA Lesson #2: Elephants at the *Mwalugange* Sanctuary

In Lesson #2, *The Self-Determination Story*, we return to the *Mwalugange* Elephant Sanctuary where I engaged in a bit of story swapping with one of the guides as we looked down at the elephants – and also the squirrels – at the Waterhole. One of the wonderful things about the Elephant Sanctuary is that there is a respect for the African Cultural Traditions, including the folktales. The photograph below is from the Website of the Sanctuary, www.elesanctuary.org/photogallery.html. They have made a safe and beautiful home for the elephants.





**Lesson #2 – Reading The Self-Determination Story: “Why Millipedes are Blind”
pp. 25-38, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* by Lonneta M. Gaines**

A Saying to Remember for The Self-Determination Story
I develop my talents and abilities. I grow into my own best self.

AUTHOR’S NOTES

Repeat the saying to remember, write it down and share it with others. The Saying to Remember for the Self-Determination Story reminds you of the importance of continuing to develop yourself, and to remember that you are a special and unique person. There’s no one else in the world like you! Now – to the story!

The *setting* for The Self-Determination Story, like for The Unity Story, is the *Mwaluganje* Elephant Sanctuary – I told you that I love this place! Once again, the story was sparked by a conversation I had with one of the guides at the viewing area overlooking the waterhole. In addition to enjoying the elephants, I also noticed that there were several squirrels scampering among the trees. Seeing the squirrels reminded me of a favorite folktale – “Why Squirrels Have Bushy Tails.” I shared this story with the Guide at the waterhole: “Did you know that squirrels didn’t always have bushy tails?” I began. I could see I had his interest, so I continued to tell the story:

Once upon a time, rabbits had bushy tails and squirrels had little skimpy tails. One day, Squirrel was invited to a fancy party. Squirrel went to his friend Rabbit: ‘Rabbit, I have a small request,’ Squirrel said. ‘What is it?’ Squirrel, Rabbit asked. Rabbit needed to be alert; he knew Squirrel could be tricky! ‘Rabbit, I have an invitation to a big party! And I’ll be all dressed up,

but I have one problem,’ Squirrel continued. ‘My fancy outfit wouldn’t be complete without a fancy tail. The party is formal, you see. Would you lend me your tail, just for the night? Just for the party?’ ‘Squirrel, I will not lend you my tail,’ Rabbit said firmly. ‘Oh, come on, Rabbit. Just for the night. I’ll be back first thing in the morning with your tail. You won’t even miss it! And I’d be ever so grateful to you!’ ‘Well, all right, Rabbit. Are you sure? Just for the night?’ ‘Just for the night,’ Rabbit said.

“Well, you know what happened!” I continued. Rabbit loaned Squirrel his tail, and Squirrel never returned it! That’s why squirrels have bushy tails to this day and rabbits have little skimpy tails. It’s also why rabbits live in burrows underground. They’re just too embarrassed to be seen without their tails!”

The Guide laughed, and said: “Your story about Squirrel and Rabbit reminds me of a story we tell here in Kenya.” And then he told me the story that you’ll find in *Fia and the Butterfly: The Self-Determination Story: “Why Millipedes are Blind.”* Of course, I made a few changes to the story he told me; that’s what story tellers do!

I had fun writing “Why Millipedes are Blind,” especially because it reminded me of that wonderful day at the Elephant Watering Hole! I hope you enjoy the story, and, most importantly, I hope you remember one of the key lessons of the story – It’s not a good idea to try to be popular and accepted by others. You are special just as you are. Remember: “Nothing is more important than your own essential self!”

Review “Why Millipedes are Blind” by completing the Matching Quiz in FIA Activity #2. Enjoy!!!

Extra Credit (smile). Answer the twelve questions at the end of the story (pp 35 & 36). Complete the Character Development Activities (pp 37 and 38).



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

FIA Activity #2 – The Self-Determination Story, Matching Quiz

Directions: Draw lines between the Sentence Starters on the left and the Correct Endings on the right.

Note: Find the answers in The Self-Determination Story: “Why Millipedes are Blind” in *Fia and the Butterfly*

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Kujichagulia</i> means | A. than your own essential self |
| 2. Think! Think! Think! | B. that you would not choose to give. |
| 3. Missy Millipede | C. Self-Determination. |
| 4. Never lend something | D. wanted to be popular. |
| 5. I make wise choices and | E. Missy Millipede’s best friend. |
| 6. Cricket was | F. Think before you act! |
| 7. Nothing is more precious | G. I grow into my own best self. |

What lesson or lessons did you learn from The *Self-Determination* Story?



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KEY:

- 1 – C: *Kujichagulia* means Self-Determination.
- 2 – F: Think! Think! Think: Think before you act!
- 3 – D: Missy Millipede wanted to be popular.
- 4 – B: Never lend something that you would not choose to give.
- 5 – G: I make wise choices and I grow into my own best self.
- 6 – E: Cricket was Missy Millipede’s best friend.
- 7 – A: Nothing is more important than your own essential self.

What lesson or lessons did you learn from The *Self-Determination* Story? **Note:** YOU are the Key to answering this question – there are no right or wrong answers!