

## **WORK-OUT**

### **POSES:**

Mountain—Mountain pose



Elephant—Half forward fold pose (wave arms like trunk)



Barn—House pose



Snake—Cobra pose



Tree—Tree pose



Fan—Tree in the wind



Barrell— Bound angel pose



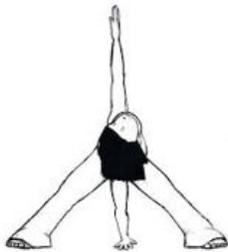
Sword of a Warrior—Warrior II pose



Tail of a Dog – Downward dog



Horn—Wide angle with a twist making a horn sound



River—Waterfall pose



## SCRIPT

In a **mountain** village far away, a merchant brought a mysterious creature (an **elephant**) back from India. The news spreads in the **mountain** village and everybody wanted to see the creature. “what could this new beast be?” wondered the villagers. The merchant, tired from his journey, explained that it is too dark in his **barn** to see the animal at this time. The villagers, not taking no for an answer, decided to sneak into the **barn** and take a look for themselves. One by one, they sneak in the dark **barn**. The first villager feels in the dark and touches something long and slithery. “The creature is like a **snake!**” he exclaims.

The next villager sneaks into the dark barn and feels around. She feels something sturdy and round. “It is sturdy and round like a **tree** trunk!

It is not a like a **snake!**”

Another villager makes their way into the dark **barn**. “It is neither **tree** like or **snake** like. The creature is like a **fan**. A huge floppy **fan!**”

One by one the villagers snuck in to the darkened **barn**, and one by one they described very different things.

“It is like a huge **barrel!**”

“It is sharp like **the sword of a warrior** .”

“It is skinny and hairy like a **tail of a dog.**”

“It sounds like a **horn.**”

As each villager described what they felt and heard, the more they argued.

“It is like a **snake!**”

“No! It’s like a **tree!**”

“No! It’s like a **fan!**”

“No! It’s like a **jug of water!**”

“No! It’s like a **sword of a warrior!**”

“No! It’s like the **tail of a dog!**”

“No! It’s sounds like a **horn!**”

(Repeat as many times a needed)

Each villager thinking they were right, and the others were wrong. The arguing continued into the next morning when the merchant walked the **elephant** through the mountain village to the **river**. Each was too busy arguing their point to see the **elephant** and realize that they each had just a small piece of the truth. The merchant taught the **mountain** villagers that that forming conclusions based on minimal information, gathered in the dark, keeps us from understanding and seeing the whole picture.

(Adapted from *Elephant in the Dark* by Mina Javaherbin, Scholastic Press, 2015.)