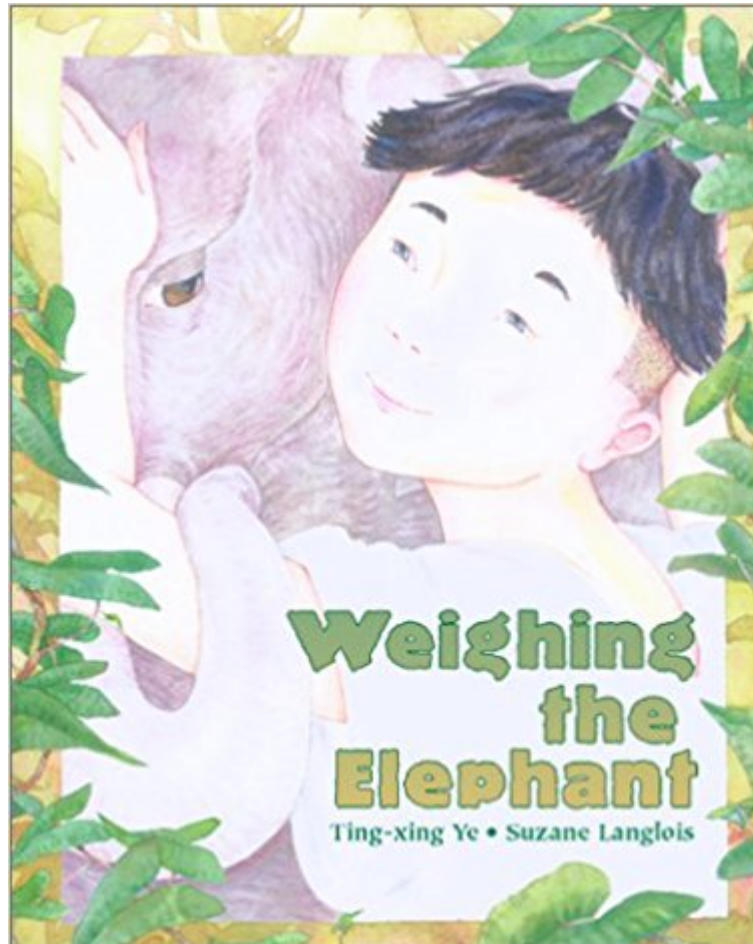




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# Weighing The Elephant (Folktale)



## Synopsis

In a small Chinese village lives a baby elephant, Huan-huan. The evil Emperor issues an impossible puzzle: the villagers can save Huan-huan only if they can deduce how much it weighs. A child comes up with an ingenious, scientifically sound answer.

## Book Information

Series: Folktale

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Annick Press (September 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 155037527X

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Product Dimensions: 10.7 x 8.5 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,059,273 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Weight #204 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3-Villagers in a remote part of China live in peace and prosperity, thanks to their own hard work and help from a family of elephants. Baby elephant Huan-huan endears himself to everyone by entertaining the local children. His fame spreads to the imperial palace, where a cruel emperor decides to add him to his stable of 50 elephants. Abused by the royal family and separated from his parents and his closest human friend, a boy named Hei-dou, the little elephant languishes. The emperor, famous for posing cruel riddles, threatens to banish Huan-huan unless a villager can tell his correct weight. Scholars are brought, scales are collected, but no one can figure out how to weigh the elephant until Hei-dou comes up with a method. The problem and its ingenious solution are intriguing, but the story is flawed by its far-fetched plot and predictable characters, especially the stock villain who echoes Puccini's riddling princess, Turandot. The art further undermines the tale. The superficially pretty illustrations confuse the context of the story, purposely making time and place vague. Some of the men wear queues or pigtails, a hairstyle specific to the last imperial

dynasty, which ruled between 1644 and 1911, although the events are said to take place in an unspecific "long ago." This muddled setting contributes to the sense of watching an operetta dreamed up to entertain Westerners, and not an evocation of Chinese life.-Margaret A. Chang, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams Copyright 1999 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Ting-xing Ye was born in Shanghai, China and moved to Toronto in 1987 as a visiting scholar to York University. Her other books include *Three Monks, No Water and Share the Sky*. Ting-xing now lives in Orillia with author William Bell. Suzane Langlois is a freelance painter and illustrator whose art has appeared in several children's books, on book and record covers, and on posters in Montreal, Toronto, New York, Hamburg and Tokyo. She currently lives with her husband in Montreal.

This book is about a small boy who's elephant is taken from him by the Emperor. In order to get his elephant back, the Emperor challenges the boy and his village to come up with the elephant's exact weight. The boy lives a simple life but is not so simple to outsmart the Emperor. The challenge was believed to be an impossible one, however the boy uses basic logic to come up with a method to weigh the elephant and is reunited with the elephant after providing his correct weight to the Emperor. The book is touching and thought provoking and the art work is excellent as well. A book I would highly recommend for your children.

A discovery of a scientific principle, inside marvelous story. The watercolors set the mood beautifully. A winner for ALL ages !

I have an old, torn-apart version of this book, and I absolutely adore it. It's a beautiful collection of short stories from Asia that are really entertaining, cute and clever. And it's not too long. A great children's book.

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