

Listen and follow the story

The Most Fabulous Competition



One morning in November, Countess Celestine de la Harridan was walking around her very grand living room. "I am so bored!" she said. "I want to do something really fun."

Suddenly, Celestine had a brilliant idea. "I know! Let's have a fabulous art competition here in the palace! I have excellent taste, you know."

Her husband was sitting on the bright yellow sofa. He looked at the pink walls. He looked at his wife in her purple and orange dress. "If you like, my darling," he said politely. And he yawned.



The next day, Celestine made posters for the great event. All the artists in the country started work.

In a small village nearby, Isabella Bellini was working on a sculpture when her twin brother, Angelo, ran in. "There's an amazing art competition at the palace!" he shouted. "Let's send in our sculpture."

Isabella frowned. "I'm not sure. You know our elephant is really special." But she changed her mind, as Angelo was so excited. Their neighbor, farmer Marco, took the elephant to the palace on his cart.

It was the day of the competition at the palace. Celestine was looking at the entries: lots of paintings and sculptures—big, small, interesting, boring.

"Hmm," she said. "Some of this art is pretty good. But it isn't interesting enough to win the prize."

Then they came to the elephant sculpture in the center of the exhibition.

"What is this?" asked Celestine. "It's so... special."

Suddenly, the elephant moved. It made a loud trumpeting noise. It was alive! Then it sprayed paint everywhere through its trunk. Everyone screamed! There was paint on the art, on the, on the artists and on Celestine and her husband, too. "What fun! What fantastic colors!" shouted Celestine.

The elephant picked up Celestine with its trunk, put her on its back and ran outside into the street. Everyone followed.

"HELP!!! Whose elephant is this?" yelled Celestine. "I love it, but please do something!"

The twins ran to the elephant. They stroked it. It turned back into a sculpture.

"I award you the Grand Prize for the Most Fabulous Art," Celestine told the twins.

The twins were happy. Celestine was happy. But her husband was really happy.

"You were right, my darling!" he said. "You do have excellent taste!"

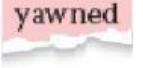


1 Read the story again. Write the name of the character(s).

- 1 _____ and _____ lived in a small village.
- 2 _____ and _____ lived in a palace.
- 3 _____ decided to have a competition.
- 4 _____ took the elephant to the palace.
- 5 _____ was really happy in the end.

2 Look at the words from the story. Circle the correct meanings.

yawned

1 "If you like, my darling," he said politely. And he .

You do this when you're **bored** / **happy**.

changed her mind

2 She , as Angelo was so excited.

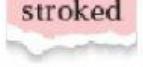
This means you have **a different** / **the same** opinion.

sprayed

3 Then it  paint everywhere through its trunk.

The paint came out **fast** / **slowly**.

stroked

4 The twins ran to the elephant. They  it.

You do this to an animal to make it **angry** / **calm**.

3 Discuss the questions about each character.

1 What is your opinion of this character at first?

2 Does your opinion change by the end of the story?

3 What does this character think about art?

4 Discuss. What do you learn about art in the story?