

Talk Together

Title: *A Protected Place* by Elizabeth Sengel **Book:** Reach Higher 3A-2 **P193**

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Story: Many different animals, such as elephants, duikers, and pottos, depend on the forest. Some of the animals make their homes in trees, yellow-backed duiker. An elephant eats plants in the forest. potto, aMany animals also rely on plants for food. Remember the okapi? It eats the leaves of plants that grow well in the dim light of the forest. It has a long tongue that rips the leaves off the branches. The Okapi Reserve has plenty of leaves for okapis to munch!Corneille Ewango is a botanist who works on the reserve. He loves the forest and its plants and animals. In 1996, something terrible happened. A war broke out in Congo. Soldiers invaded the forest. They destroyed plants and killed animals. Many of the workers on the reserve ran away, but Ewango wouldn't leave. He knew he had to save the forest. 'I was afraid,' he says, 'but I didn't have a choice.'One amazing thing about the Okapi Reserve is its diversity of plants. There are hundreds of native species of plants in the reserve. Vines dangle from trees. The leaves of giant ferns curve like dinosaur tails. Tall trees reach toward the sky and make a roof with their thick leaves. A strangler fig grows around another tree in the forest.

What is amazing about the plants in the Okapi Reserve?

How do you know that Ewango is a brave person?

How does the okapi's long tongue help the animal survive?