



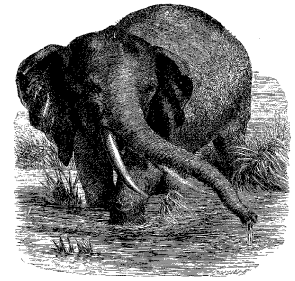
Chapter III – Reading Narrative Text

Passage A

Directions: Read the story about the little boy who figured out how to weigh an elephant. Then answer the questions that follow.

Weighing the Elephant by Baoqing Xu

Almost two thousand years ago, there lived a very smart young Chinese prince named Cao Chong. He lived with his father, the king, in a large palace.



2 When the prince was seven years old, an envoy from Siam presented his father with a huge elephant. The king and his court had never seen a creature like this before, and they **marveled** at its great size and wondered how much it weighed.

“Why don’t we find out?” asked Cao Chong.

“How?” asked his father. “We don’t have a scale big enough!”

Cao Chong thought for a while. “It’s not that hard,” he said. “Follow me to the river, and I will show you.”

Now, the important people at the palace—the lords, the ladies, the generals—all hesitated. They knew that Cao Chong was brilliant, but he was just a little boy. Everyone looked at the king to see if they should take Cao Chong seriously.

The king knew his son. Smiling, he rose from his royal throne and said to Cao Chong, “Go ahead. You are the commander. We’ll all follow your orders.”