

# Stories for Lipreading

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## [A Golden Elephant on an English Hill by Jan Church - Setting the Scene](#)

This factual piece is set in the middle of the nineteenth century. It tells the story of a friendship between The Maharajah of Benares and an Englishman, Edward Reade which brought an exotic and ornate 'Golden Elephant' to the middle of a small village in The Chilterns.

### Helpful Vocabulary and Phrases

In a village in India  
Sun had been hotter  
No sign of grass  
Standing listlessly  
Dusty  
No speck of green  
Sky  
Shrivelled  
Paced the ground  
Strike lucky  
Had been dug  
Signs of green  
Cattle  
Spared hours of walking  
Many years later  
Distinguished career in India  
Acres of grass  
Hedges  
A hot summer  
Riding through the village of Stoke Row  
Her son  
Next letter  
Described the scene  
In his turn  
And so he did  
March 1863  
Not an easy task  
Digging by hand  
Ladder  
Clay and gravel  
Chalk  
Bands of sand  
Daylight was a distant circle  
Dark days  
368 feet

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Height of St Paul's  
Exotic dome  
Eight slender columns  
Ornate lettering  
Winding gear  
Declared open  
May 1864  
Cost of the upkeep for such a grand edifice  
Acres of land  
100 cherry trees  
Cottage  
Warden of the Well  
1939  
Open space