

Postcard to Elephant Whisperers

An activity of "Humble couple and their elephants are now movie stars".

Read "Humble couple and their elephants" (page 10–11, *What's Up* April 2023). Did you know that long before the documentary *Elephant Whisperers*, Laurence Anthony wrote a book titled *The Elephant Whisperer*? The book is about Mr Anthony's relationship with a herd of elephants at his wildlife reserve. Both the 2009 book and 2022 documentary are about humans bonding with elephants. Work in pairs on the following to take a closer look at human-elephant friendships.

1. From the *What's Up* article, how do you know that Bommand and Bellie love their elephants very much?

2. Read the following quotes from Laurence Anthony's book, *The Elephant Whisperer*.

- a) "The only good cage is an empty cage."
- b) "In our noisy cities we tend to forget the things our ancestors knew on a gut level: that the wilderness is alive, that its whispers are there for all to hear — and to respond to."
- c) "They taught me that all life forms are important to each other in our common quest for happiness and survival. That there is more to life than just yourself, your own family, or your own kind."
- d) "But perhaps the most important lesson I learned is that there are no walls between humans and the elephants except those that we put up ourselves, and that until we allow not only elephants but all living creatures their place in the sun, we can never be whole ourselves."
- e) "Wildlife can absorb adversity that would destroy a human without a blink."

3. Tick three quotes that both of you like. Have a conversation about your three selected quotes. In what ways is each quote meaningful to you? Listen to each other. Jot down your key points here ↓.

4. Think about how you can express your summary points through art. Produce the artwork here as if it were the front side of a postcard.



5. Write a brief note to Bommand and Bellie on the back of the postcard. include the following:
- what you learnt from their example
 - your words of encouragement.

<p>(Your text here ↓)</p>	<div data-bbox="1174 1061 1369 1256" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 122px; height: 87px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">To: Bommand and Bellie <hr/>Theppakadu Elephant Camp <hr/>Tamil Nadu <hr/>India 123456 <hr/></p>
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6. Share your postcard with your classmates. By expressing your thoughts and feelings in this way, you may better appreciate the ways in which humans can connect with our fellow mammals.