

**2nd Grade Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book title: *Dumbo***

**Author:** Mathew Price

**Main characters:** Dumbo, Timothy Q. Mouse (the narrator), Dumbo’s mother

**Executive summary:** A little elephant with very large ears is teased and disrespected by almost everyone around him, but he learns to do something amazing with his enormous ears.

**Detailed summary:** Timothy Q. Mouse tells the story of a young elephant, who was born on a circus train. His mother, a circus elephant, loved him very, very much. All the circus elephants and other animals thought he was “adorable,” until they saw his oversized ears. The other elephants made fun of him and called him Dumbo. His mother didn’t care what he looked like. She loved her little elephant.

At the next stop there was a parade. Dumbo wanted to march in the parade with the other circus animals, but he kept tripping over his large ears. Some naughty boys along the parade route laughed at him and grabbed his ears. Dumbo’s mother was angry with the boys for being mean to her baby. She ran at them and grabbed one with her trunk. After that the circus Ringmaster captured Dumbo’s mother and locked her up.

Dumbo was all alone. His heart ached for his mother. The other elephants were not nice to him. They thought he was “shameful” with his big ears. When the Ringmaster tried to get Dumbo to do a trick with the other elephants, he couldn’t do it, because he kept tripping over his ears. Timothy Q. Mouse tried to help by tying his ears together at the top of his head, but they just came untied and got in the way again. Dumbo tumbled into the other elephants while they were making a pyramid and made them all fall down. Continued on Back

***Dumbo,*** Page 2

Then the clowns tried to use Dumbo in their act. They painted his face like a clown and threw pies at him. They also made him jump from a burning tower onto a trampoline below. The circus audience loved that trick, so the clowns wanted to make Dumbo jump from even higher up, which scared Dumbo. Timothy Q. Mouse felt sorry for little Dumbo and took him to see his Mother, who was still locked in a cage. Dumbo’s mother hugged her baby through the bars of the cage and for a little while Dumbo felt happy and loved again.   
  
Then it was time for Timothy Q. Mouse to take Dumbo back. He was crying. They stopped so Dumbo could get a drink from a bucket. There must have been something other than water in the bucket, because Dumbo made a funny face. Timothy climbed up on the bucket to see what was in it, and fell in. It made him feel funny too.

When they woke up they were both stuck up in a tree. Three black birds teased them for being in a tree. Dumbo and Timothy jumped into the water below. They couldn’t figure out how they got up in the tree. One of the birds said, “Maybe you flew up!” Timothy was sure that it was Dumbo’s big ears that allowed them to fly up into the tree. The birds thought that was hilarious. They laughed and made fun of Dumbo. Timothy Q. Mouse scolded the birds for teasing a little baby elephant, who missed his mother and had received only disrespectful, mean treatment from everyone else.

The birds felt bad for the way they treated little Dumbo. They tried to help Timothy teach Dumbo to fly again. They told Timothy what Dumbo needed was a magic feather. Timothy understood what the birds were saying. If Dumbo thought he had a magic feather, he would have the confidence to believe that he could fly. Holding the feather in his trunk, with Timothy riding on his head, Dumbo flapped his ears faster and faster. Then he was flying! Dumbo and Timothy flew over the town.

That night at the circus, when it was time for Dumbo to jump from the burning tower, he didn’t land on the trampoline below, instead he flew up to the top of the tent and down again over the clowns. The crowd loved it! And Dumbo and his trainer, Timothy Q. Mouse, became famous Hollywood stars. Dumbo even got to have his own rail car that he shared with his Mother.