

### Dance Party in the Forest:

King Babar and Queen Celeste sure know how to throw a party! From invitations delivered by birds to dancing beneath the stars, every detail of the celebration of the wedding and coronation of the two elephants is special. This activity is your chance to plan and enjoy your destination celebration in an imaginary forest!

**Materials Needed:** Space to move in.

**Optional:**

- Ribbons or scarves to hold while you dance
- Comfortable costumes
- Musical instruments and/or a device for playing music or playing segments of the *Babar the Elephant* as presented by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, composed by Francis Poulenc and narrated by Meryl Streep which can be found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXOPONACzEw>

**“Everyone danced merrily. The birds sang with the orchestra...Night fell and the stars came out. The hearts of King Babar and Queen Celeste were filled with happy dreams...for many a long day they will remember that wonderful ball.”– Jean de Brunhoff, *The Story of Babar***

### Directions:

#### Step 1: Get Ready and Invite Your Guests

- Decide who will spread the word about your dance party. Babar and Celeste sent birds to tell friends throughout the forest about their grand celebration. Perhaps you would prefer to have fairies, monkeys, butterflies, snakes, hippos or some other sort of creature deliver your message. It's up to you!

#### Step 2: Transform Into the Messenger

- On a slow count of ten, transform (change) your bodies and voices to become the messenger creatures.
- Move through the space as if you are moving through the forest. Fly or climb to the tops of the trees! Splash through a river or an oasis. Slip in and out of caves as you sing or tell the news of the wonderful party that is planned.
- Don't forget to tell the forest inhabitants the time and place of the party and what to bring with them. For example, if it is a birthday they might want to bring gifts. If it is a fancy ball they may want to dress their best or if it's a feast they will certainly want to prepare their favorite foods to bring along.
- If you wish you can listen to minutes 20:30-21:12 of the program as you deliver your invitations (See Optional suggestions in the “Materials needed” section above for link)

#### Step 3: Get Set and Prepare the Imaginary Space

- Do you need to clear anything out of the way, like weeds or sticks? Are there pesky mosquitos to chase or paths to make? Act out your clean up with imaginary objects.
- Get your musical instruments or device for playing music ready if you are choosing to use them.
- Place ribbons or scarves around for the guests to use when they dance, and create cozy and comfortable places for when they need a rest.
- Pick and arrange imaginary berries, fruit or flowers for a finishing touch.

# DANCE

---

## *The Story of Babar*

---

### **Step 4: Get Set and Prepare the Imaginary Spacelt's party time!**

- Start the music, whether that means singing, playing an instrument or playing recorded music (try minutes 22 – 25 of the program or other music of your choice).
- Greet the guests (the guests may be imaginary or they may be family members, pets or stuffed animals. Or you can even change characters and become the guests at your own party). Give them a tour of the space and imaginary refreshments you have prepared!
- Dance and enjoy the celebration (this is a good time to use your ribbons or scarves if you choose to use them).

### **Closing:**

- Once everyone has danced and dined to their hearts content, say goodbye to your guests, being sure to thank each and every one. Look up at the stars, take a deep breath, and think about how lucky you are.

### **Bonus:**

- Draw a picture of your wonderful dance party.
- Write a note to an imaginary guest, thanking them for coming to the celebration.
- Take time to ask members of your family to tell stories about celebrations they will always remember or look together at pictures of celebrations you have enjoyed.