Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss

Horton lives in the jungle. Horton is not a person; he is an elephant.

His friend, Mayzie, is a lazy bird. She is also a mama bird. She has to sit on a big, speckled egg all day and all night.

But she hates this job! She dreams of taking a long vacation.

Horton came walking by her nest. Mayzie saw him and called out, "Horton! My good friend! Can you help me?"

Now, Horton is a very helpful fellow; he always likes to lend a hand.

"What can I do for you?" He asked.

"Oh, a small thing, really. I need a break; could you sit on my egg for just a few minutes?"

Horton laughed loudly, "You're crazy! I'm too big!"

"Pleeeeeeease!!!" She pleaded. Horton took pity on her. "OK, I'll do it... But promise me you'll come back very soon!"

"I promise!" she said, and she flew off.

So Horton crawled up onto the nest and sat down very carefully. Little did he know that Mayzie decided she would never come back to her nest!

But Horton was a good little elephant: His mother taught him, "Horton, always keep your word. When you promise to do something, don't stop until it's done!"

So poor Horton sat on that egg through storms and blizzards. Even when his friends made fun of him, he stayed on the egg, and kept it safe and warm.

In fact, even when hunters were about to shoot him, he didn't run away.
But the hunters got an idea. They put Horton on a boat and sent him to America. There, they sold him to a circus!
So poor Horton traveled all over the U.S.A., and thousands of people came to see the funny elephant, up in the tree, sitting on the big egg! He felt sad.
Then, one sunny day, Mayzie happened to fly over the circus. She decided to go see the show.
Imagine her surprise when she flew through a tent door, and came face-to-face with Horton!
Horton was so surprised that he couldn't speak for a few seconds. But just as he was about to open his mouth, his egg began to make a loud noise!
"My egg is hatching!!!" he cried! At that moment, Mayzie decided she wanted to be a mom again, and she yelled at Horton, "Get off of my egg, and get out of my tree!!!"
Just then, the egg burst open. Something flew out, but it wasn't quite a bird. It had wings like a bird, but it was also gray, with big ears and a trunk, just like Horton's!
It was an elephant bird!!!
People were amazed! They had never seen anything like this before!
The circus people were so touched, they sent Horton and his new baby back to the jungle to start a new life together.

THE END