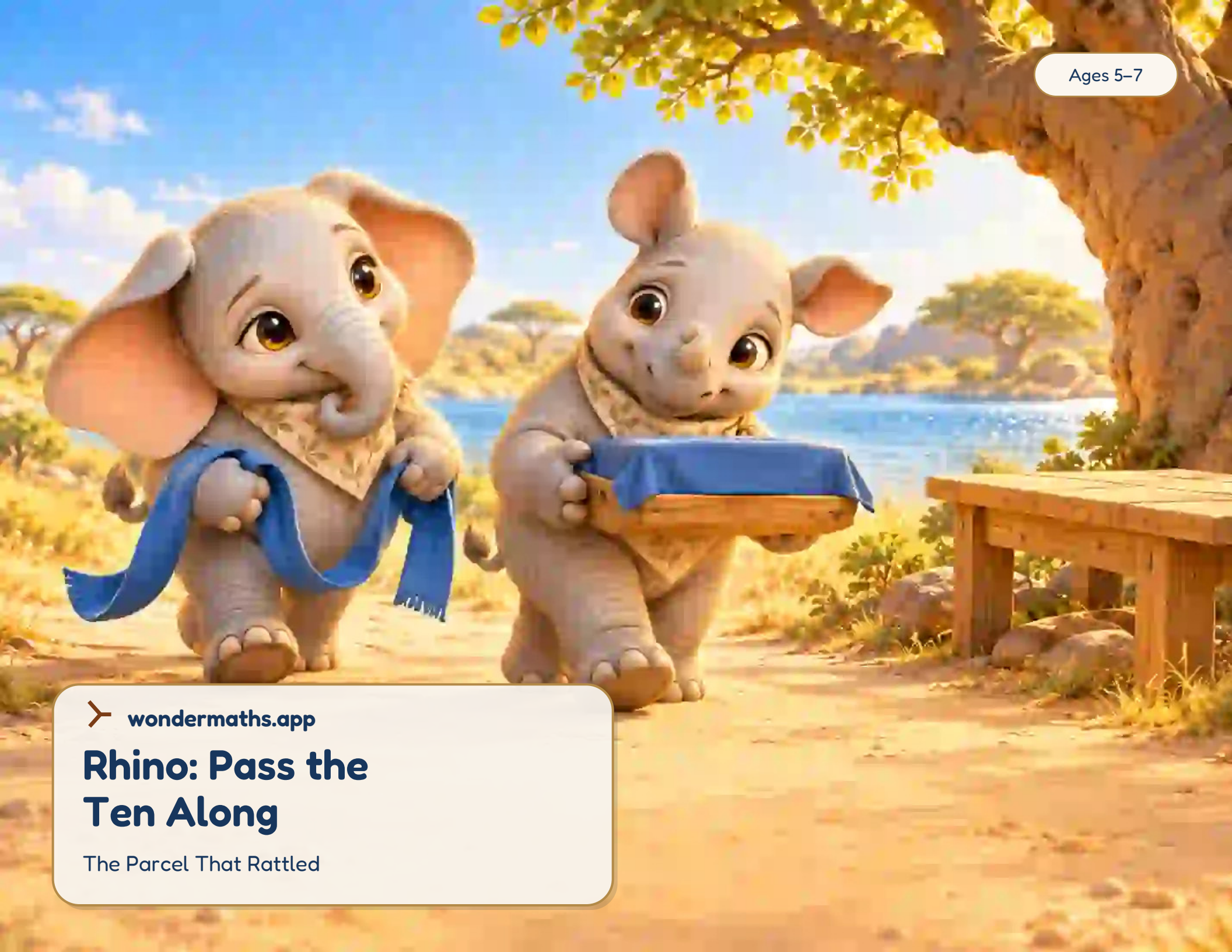

Ages 5–7

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Rhino: Pass the Ten Along

The Parcel That Rattled



“Rattle, rattle!” Rhino stopped beside the lake. His delivery tray was making a noise. Ten counters had to reach the packing table, but he could not carry them all in his paws. Elephant set down a ribbon. “Let’s keep them together.”



Rhino placed the counters in two rows. Five in the top row. Four in the bottom row. “That is only nine.” A small tap came from beneath the ribbon. Rhino lifted it. “Here you are!” He moved the last counter into the empty place.



Elephant held the tray while Rhino tied the ribbon around its rim. “Now I have one,” Rhino said. Then he looked again. “One pack. Ten counters!” He loosened the ribbon to check. All ten were still there. The pack had changed their arrangement, not their number.



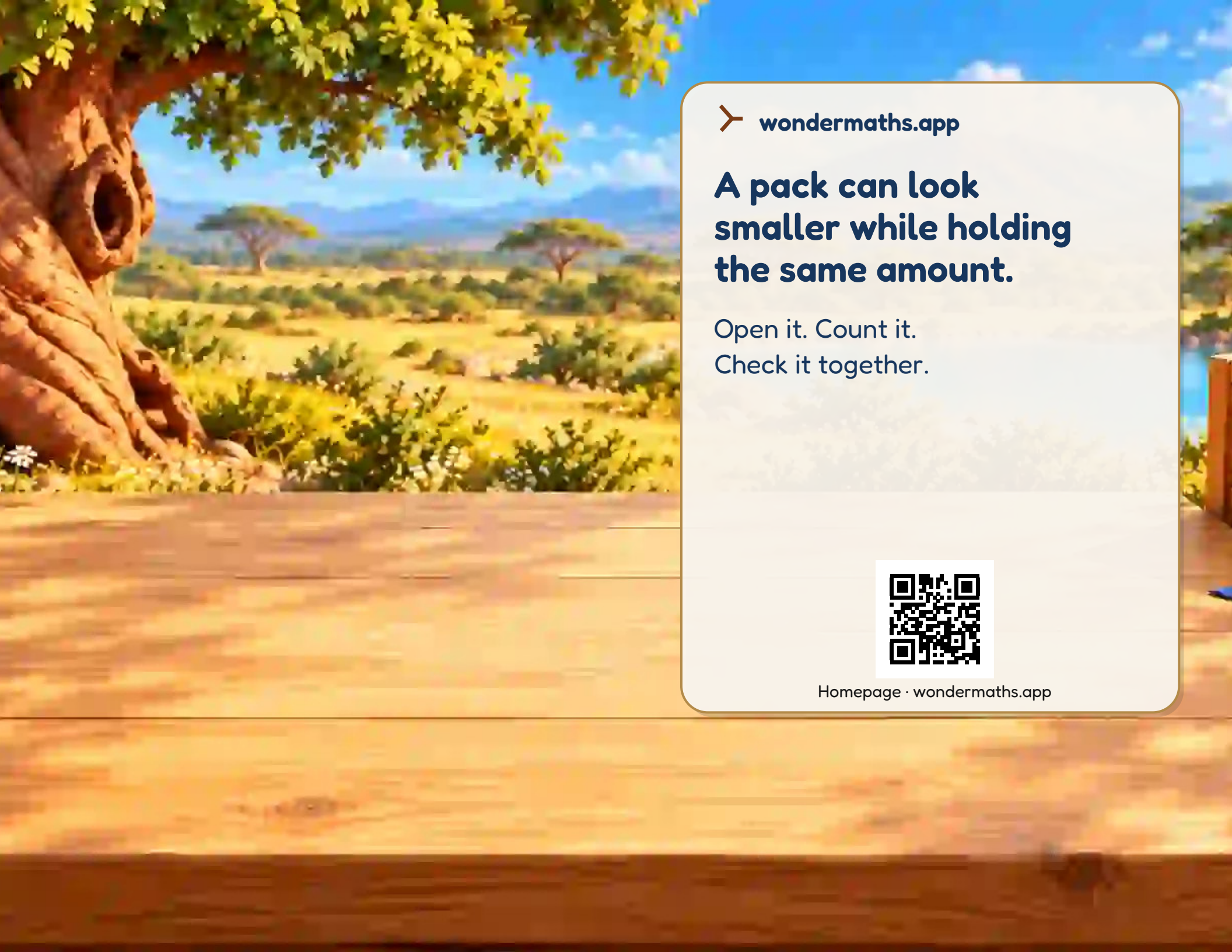
At the packing table, nine other full ten-packs were waiting. Rhino added his pack. Ten tens made one hundred. He put all ten packs in the big delivery box. Nothing was added when he closed the lid. Nothing disappeared inside it.



“We need to send just one counter,” said Elephant. Rhino paused. He opened the hundred-box into ten ten-packs. Then he opened one ten-pack into ten loose counters. Now he could reach one. He slid it to Elephant. Nine tens and nine ones stayed with Rhino: ninety-nine.



Rattle, rattle! This time Rhino smiled. “A sound doesn’t tell us how many are inside. We can open and check.” Elephant placed the delivered counter beside the box. Ninety-nine here and one delivered: all one hundred accounted for. They touched paws, then carried the delivery together.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A pack can look smaller while holding the same amount.
Open it. Count it.
Check it together.
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