Lenny’s Training
(Part of “The Elephant Story”)
By: Zsanelle Morel
It is time for Lenny the Elephant to be trained as a circus performer. His trainer, Jack, is patient with him and talks to him about life in the circus. Lenny wonders about the world outside of the circus, but Jack says it is dangerous and unfulfilling. He says that Lenny is not missing out on anything worthwhile. Lenny is not satisfied by this answer, but he accepts it for now.
Lenny wants to be a great circus performer. He imagines himself in the arena, adored by thousands of fans.
One day, a small group of animal rights activists arrive at the circus to protest animal captivity. Jenny and Lila are two of the most passionate members. They look for a way to sneak in and see the animals for themselves.
Once inside, they meet Lenny. They tell him that elephants are meant to be free out in the wild with their herds. They even show him pictures of wild elephants. Lenny had never seen elephants outside of the circus.
After they leave, Lenny thinks about what they said. While he likes his life in the circus, he wishes to be part of a herd. He longs to meet his mother again and be free.