**Unit 2: Nurturing Nature**

**Section 2: Elephants Raid the Kitchen**

**Reading 1 (pages 51–52)**

1. a. i. to signal other elephants to come.

b. ii. they wanted to look for more food in the collapsed kitchen.

2. a. Tuskless was a female elephant, a part of the herd that lived close to where the author and her friends were camping. She was drawn to the camp because of the smell of food items, especially bananas since she was very fond of them.

b. One day at the lodge feeding place, Tuskless was given a whole stalk of overripe, almost fermented, bananas. She ate them with great relish. From that day on she developed a taste for bananas and particularly sought them out.

c. Tuskless wrapped her trunk around the main sisal pole of the tent and wrenched it away. The other elephants moved forward and also started pulling on other poles and the wire. Tuskless quickly made a sizeable hole in one wall of the kitchen. Then she became impatient and leaned her head against the wall and pushed. The building swayed before collapsing sideways. This is how the elephants entered the kitchen.

d. Getting food out of the tent was not easy for Tuskless. She had to break through the kitchen walls and turn out trunks. At one point she even ‘became impatient’ enough to lean on a wall causing the kitchen to collapse. Even after all the fresh food was gone she had to knock down and smash the cupboard to get to the rest of the food but she was undeterred.

e. All the food that the elephants gobbled up—the fruits which could be placed whole in the mouth and crushed, and other items—was a feast for the elephants. It was near ecstasy for them to find such a store of food in one place.

f. As soon as she realized that the camp was being raided by elephants, without getting off the Land Rover, she rushed at the elephants in the vehicle to chase them away. Once they had left, she climbed down and crawled into the kitchen because she could hear and smell gas escaping. She found the gas cylinder and removed the regulator to close off the valve.

g. The narrator blamed herself because she felt she should have known better and taken the necessary steps to put all the food items safely out of the herd’s reach, especially since her camp had been raided before.

**Reading 2 (page 52)**

6. Dear Diary,

This evening while roaming around the periphery of the camp, I got the most amazing smell of the ripest bananas! You know how I love them. I had to find them right away! The smell came from a camp I was familiar with. I had been there earlier that evening. A nice woman was staying there with her friends, but her cook kept chasing me and my friend’s away.

I was sure they had the tastiest food with them for their stay here. I was very curious to know what food items they had in their kitchen, so while Teddy and the others were feeding outside, I turned my trunk towards the kitchen slyly to find out who or what was there.

I could tell that no humans were around. And oh the smell of fruit! Pineapples, oranges, vegetables! It was irresistible! The kitchen was a flimsy structure made out of a few wooden posts, sisal poles, chicken wire and roofing felt.

I made a slight noise and signaled to my friends and we forced ourselves into the kitchen! Oh what great fun it was! Teddy, Tony and Tilly joined me and we began to pull things out, push things over, open things up and eat in as much food as we could.

Unfortunately, the woman and her friends returned while we were still rummaging through the kitchen. She chased us away with her vehicle.