

Piglet from *Winnie the Pooh*

The Moment Before

Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet have set a trap for a Heffalump and have gone home to sleep and await the results.

(waking up) Oh! *(bravely)* Yes. *(more bravely)* Quite so. *(not brave at all)* What is a Heffalump like? Is it fierce? *Does it come when you whistle?* And how does it come? Is it fond of pigs at all? If it is fond of pigs, does it make any difference what *sort of pig?* I don't know. Shouldn't I know if I'm going to see my first Heffalump in about an hour? *(trying to be brave)* Of course, Pooh will be with me, and it is much more friendly with two. But... *(and failing)* suppose Heffalumps are very fierce with pigs *and* bears? Wouldn't it be better to pretend to have a headache, and so I can't go up to the Six Pine Trees this morning? *(trying to be brave)* But then suppose that it is a very fine day, and there is no Heffalump in the trap, here I'd be, in bed all morning, simply wasting my time for nothing. What should I do? *(having an idea)* Oh! I will go up very quietly to the Six Pine Trees now, peep very cautiously into the trap, and see if there *is* a Heffalump there. And if there is, I will go back to bed, and if there isn't, I won't. *(moving downstage, trying to be brave)* I think there won't be a Heffalump in the trap. There won't be a Heffalump in the trap. There might be a Heffalump in the trap. *(and failing...)* What is that noise? *(not brave at all)* Oh, dear, oh, dear, oh, dear! That must be a Heffalump, heffalumping about like anything! *(turns to run)* I should go. I really should go. *(turns back, trying to be brave)* But... I've never seen a Heffalump. Shouldn't I just see what they're like? *(PIGLET gets up on a chair)* If I creep very, very slowly and look down...

PIGLET inhales in panic, jumps off the chair and runs in circles.

Help, help! A Heffalump, a Horrible Heffalump! Help, help, a Horrible Hoffalump! Hoff, Hoff, a Hellible Horralump! Holl, Holl, a Hoffable Hellerump! Christopher Robin!