

GOOD NIGHT, GORILLA

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Book by Peggy Rathmann ©1994

Themes: Animals, Humor, Zoo

Grade Level: Pre-K - 2

Running Time: 8 minutes

SUMMARY

One by one, the zookeeper says good night to all the animals in their cages. But tiptoeing right behind him, is a precocious little gorilla who manages to unlock each cage. The animals end up following the zookeeper home and discovering that his bedroom makes a fine sleeping place. But what will the zookeeper's wife say when she wakes up?

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about different kinds of animals.
- Children will be introduced to humor in a story.
- Children will learn that pictures, as well as words, tell a story.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about experiences they may have had visiting a zoo. Ask:

- What kinds of animals did you see there? Describe their sounds.
- How were the animals cared for?
- What kinds of foods were the different animals eating?

Explain to the children what a prank is. Have children talk about how it feels to fool someone or to be fooled. If children have not experienced harmless tricks or

pranks, have them describe the funniest thing they ever saw or heard.

Share the book **Good Night, Gorilla** with children. Then ask:

- Why didn't the zookeeper know what was going on?
- Where did the animals go when they followed the zookeeper?
- Who awakened when the animals all said "good night"?
- Where did the zookeeper's wife take the animals?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Visit the library with children and gather up some books about the animals described in the story (gorilla, mouse, elephant, lion, hyena, giraffe, armadillo.) Have children choose one animal to learn about and share their information with others in the group. You might encourage children to demonstrate the ways the animals move, describe the different kinds of foods they eat, discuss the kinds of habitats they live in, or describe the ways they care for their young. Let children accompany the stories with their own illustrations.

Provide large sheets of poster-sized paper, poster paints, and brushes children can use to paint a large zoo mural for the classroom. Encourage cooperation as children share supplies, work side by side, and discuss the different animals they will include in the mural.

Have children think about what might happen next in the story if it were to continue on. Then discuss the following questions:

- What do you think happened when the zookeeper's wife awoke the next morning?
- What do you think happened to the gorilla? the mouse?
- How might the zookeeper keep the animals in their cages in the future?

OTHER VIDEOS AND FILMS ABOUT ANIMALS FROM WESTON WOODS INCLUDE:

- **THE CAMEL WHO TOOK A WALK** by Jack Tworikov & illus. by Roger Duvoisin
- **CAPS FOR SALE** by Esphyr Slobodkina
- **CHARLIE NEEDS A CLOAK** by Tomie dePaola
- **CIRCUS BABY** by Maud & Miska Petersham
- **THE COW WHO FELL IN THE CANAL** by Phyllis Krasilovsky, illus. by Peter Spier
- **THE DAY JIMMY'S BOA ATE THE WASH** by Trinka Hakes Noble, illus. by Steven Kellogg
- **HOT HIPPO** by Mwenye Hadithi, illus. by Adrienne Kennaway
- **THE LITTLE RED HEN** by Paul Galdone
- **ROSIE'S WALK** by Pat Hutchins

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PICNIC

Picnic

by Emily Arnold McCully (HarperCollins)

Themes: Feelings/Families

Grade Level: PreK-3

Running Time: 13 minutes, animated

Summary

Picnic is a wordless story about a family of mice out for a picnicking day in the country. During the ride to the picnic area, the smallest mouse falls off the back of the truck, unbeknownst to the rest of the family. The sad little mouse finds flower blossoms to eat and fills himself up with them in an unfamiliar surrounding. Meanwhile, the mouse family is having a wonderful time at the picnic. When it is discovered that the small mouse is missing, the family rushes back to the truck and searches for her. The end of the story finds the little mouse happily reunited with her family, but hardly ready to enjoy a picnic lunch!

Objectives

- Children will explore family outings
- Children will investigate the ways family members care for and feel about one another
- Children will enjoy an emotion-filled story told without words

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Picnic with children.

Then ask:

If you went along with the mouse family on their outing, what would you enjoy most about the day?

Talk with the children about outings they may have enjoyed with their families. Emphasize to children that if they have not visited other places with their families, a day or evening at home can be a wonderful "outing" as well. Ask: What did you and your family members do on this special day? What other kinds of things made the day seem special to you? How did you feel about your family members during your "outing?" How did you feel at the end of the day?

Have a picnic on your classroom floor, or outside on a nice day. Spread out a large blanket and supply a basket filled with napkins, paper plates, plastic utensils, etc. Children can work together in the classroom to prepare special lunch or snack treats for their classroom picnic. Here are some recipes you might want to try:

Peanut Butter Roll-Ups

Spread peanut butter, honey, and raisins on slices of bread and enjoy.

Grapenut Salad

Combine grapenut cereal, cottage cheese, raisins, cinnamon, and honey. Mix and eat.

Muffin Pizzas

Spread English muffins with tomato sauce. Top with slices of mozzarella cheese and bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes.

After Viewing Activities

Have children imagine what a picnic among a family

of elephants might be like. Encourage children to think about the kinds of games the elephants might play, the kinds of picnic food they would enjoy, the kinds of water play they might engage in. Then have children create stories about "The Elephants' Picnic." Give children the opportunity to accompany their stories with illustrations. Display children's creations on a classroom wall or bulletin board.

Talk with children about the background music. Replay a portion and turn off the sound. Ask: Does the story seem different without the music? If you think that it does seem different, in what way? What kinds of music did you hear that told you that the little mouse was sad? What kind of music did you hear when the mouse family was excited? happy? Later, play a variety of musical pieces for children. As children listen, encourage them to describe the ways each selection makes them feel.

Give children practice in following a sequence of events and telling a story in pictures. Supply children with crayons and five sheets of manila construction paper taped together horizontally to form one long sheet. Ask children to draw a series of pictures that will tell a story. Later, have children share their wordless stories with one another.

Other book based films and videos about family outings are available from Weston Woods. They include:

BLUEBERRIES FOR SAL by Robert McCloskey
NOT SO FAST, SONGOLOLO by Niki Daly
OWL MOON by Jane Yolen and illustrated by John Schoenherr

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