

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?

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