

Goodnight, Gorilla

by Peggy Rathmann

A nearly wordless story about a clever gorilla who tags along behind the zookeeper and lets out the animals as fast as the zookeeper can lock them up.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *There are very few words in this book so we're going to use the pictures and our imaginations to decide what is happening.* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why this gorilla wants us to be quiet?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end.

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What is the first thing the gorilla does?
- Do you think the gorilla is clever?
- Why does the gorilla unlock all the cages?
- Do you think the animals are happy to be out of their cages?
- Do you think the zookeeper is tired? How can you tell?
- Do you think if you were the zookeeper that you would notice if a bunch of animals were following behind you?
- How did the zookeeper's wife know that the animals were in the room?
- What did the gorilla do to the zookeeper's wife?
- Let's go back through the book and look at the mouse. Where did the mouse get the banana in the first place? Who do you think ate the banana?

Do

Goodnight, ?

Make enough copies of the attached *Goodnight, Gorilla Animal Figures* for as many children as you need (one animal figure per child). Ask the children if they remember the sequence in which the animals got out of the cages. Tell them that you will ask who got out of the cage first and those children holding that animal will stand up and the rest of the children will say "Goodnight, (name of the animal)." The gorilla was first so all the children with the gorilla animal figure need to stand up and gather in a group until all children are standing up in seven groups (one group for each animal – include the mouse!).

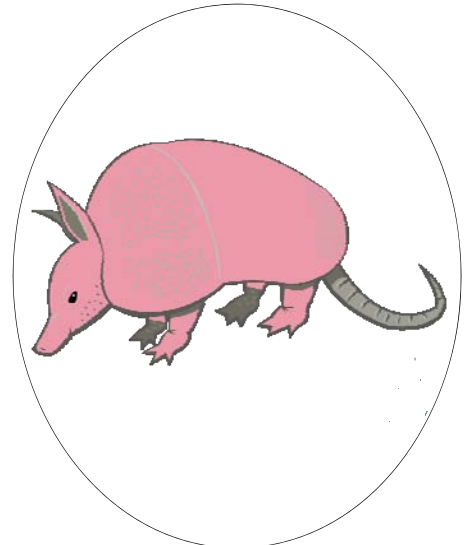
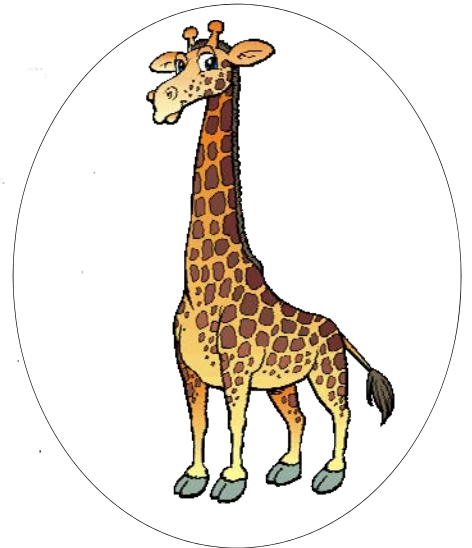
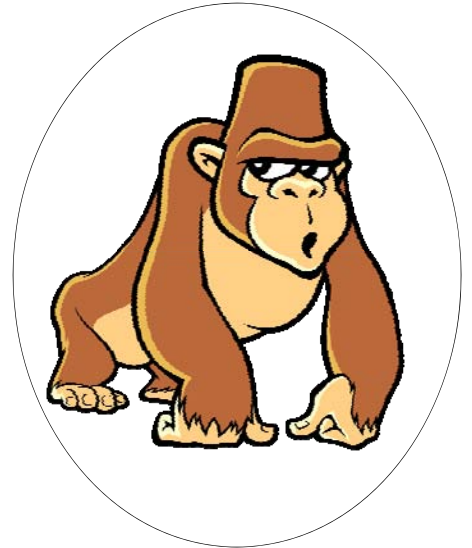
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My Name: _____

Good Night, Gorilla

Animal Figures



"Children are
made readers
on the laps of
their parents."
—Emilie Buchwald

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