

1 Connect to *Good Night, Gorilla*: What Actions Do You See?

Literacy Learning Focus

Children observe, describe, and comment on what they see the characters in *Good Night, Gorilla* doing and use this information to make sense of the story that unfolds from picture to picture.

Quick Plan

- Teacher and children examine and discuss the characters' actions.
- Teacher and children find and discuss familiar gestures and actions.
- Children imitate the zookeeper or an animal.

Materials

- ☆ A copy of *Good Night, Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann
- ☆ *Good Night, Gorilla* Vocabulary Card

Beginning

1. Gather in a comfortable spot where you and the children can cluster as close as possible to *Good Night, Gorilla*. Put the book on the floor, front cover up, so that the children can easily touch and examine the pictures.
2. Begin by saying something like "Today, let's look at what the animals and people are doing in *Good Night, Gorilla*. On the cover, let's figure out what the gorilla is doing." Listen to and acknowledge the children's observations. When they have finished commenting, ask about the zookeeper: "I wonder what you see the zookeeper doing."
3. Turn to the title page, a two-page spread. Say something like "Let's see what the gorilla is doing here." Listen to and acknowledge their observations.

Middle

4. Turn to the first two pages of the story. Ask the children to tell you what actions they see, that is, what the gorilla, the mouse, the zookeeper, and even the vulture (in the cage on the far left) are doing. Give children plenty of time to look at the pages and then to describe what they see. Listen to and support their observations and add your own from time to time. For example, a conversation about the first two pages of the story might begin in the following manner:

Teacher: Hmm. I wonder what you see the gorilla doing now.

Child 1: He's smiling.

Child 2: Poking his head out.

Child 3: Arm. Poking it out.

Child 4: Getting the keys.

Child 5: Holding with his foot.

Child 6: His hand, too.

Teacher: As the gorilla reaches for the keys, he holds on to the bars of his cage with one hand and one foot.

Child 6: So he won't fall out.

5. Before turning the page, summarize the actions the children have seen. For example, based on what your children see and say, you might comment, "We see the gorilla smiling, poking his head and arm out of the cage, reaching for the zookeeper's keys, and holding on to the bars with his hand and foot. The zookeeper is holding and shining his flashlight and looking down. The mouse is holding and maybe biting the balloon string. The vulture is sitting or roosting and maybe sleeping, and the baby gorilla is lying down sleeping."
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until you reach the end of the story. Give the children plenty of time to examine the pictures of each animal and person and comment on their

actions. Comment on the actions yourself using action words the children overlook or may not know. (For a list of the actions in *Good Night, Gorilla*, see the *Good Night, Gorilla* Vocabulary Card.)

End

7. Finally, look at the last two pages (that include the dedication and copyright information) and the back cover of the book. Again, ask the children what they see the gorilla doing. They may notice that the gorilla can hold on to things with both his hands and his feet!
8. Let children know that *Good Night, Gorilla* will be in the book area for them to look at whenever they want.

9. Ask children to walk like the zookeeper or one of the animals to the next activity in the classroom daily routine.

Follow-Up

As you read more picture books with children during other parts of the day, encourage the children to examine and talk about the characters' actions.

Related Small-Group Times

Level 2 connection activities 2 and 3

Good Night, Gorilla



Objects

Use some of these **nouns** (words that name people, places, things, events, and ideas) in conversations with children each time you look at and talk about *Good Night, Gorilla*.

Animals

armadillo
brush
elephant
giraffe
gorilla
hoof
horns
hyena
lion
mane
mouse
paw
shell
spots
tail
toes
tongue
trunk
tuft (tail tip)
tusk
vulture

Clothing and People

belt loop
belt
brim
buckle
hat
husband
mustache
nametag
nightcap
nightgown
partner
patch
pocket
shirt
slippers
tie
uniform
visor
wife
zookeeper

Colors

black
brown
dark green
gray
green
green-yellow
lavender
light blue
light green
light pink
light yellow
midnight blue
orange
pitch black
purple
red
red-orange
tan
turquoise
white
yellow

Dwellings

arch
archway
bars
baseboard
bedding (grass, straw)
cage
cave
door
enclosure
house
keyhole
lock
pen
porch
porch light
roof
stairs
steps
stoop
tiles
wall
window
windowsill
zoo

Furnishings

alarm clock
awning
bedpost
bedside dresser (or bureau)
bedstead
blanket
carpet
cord
curtains (also drapes)
designs
doorknob
drawer
finial
footboard
fringe
handrails
headboard
lamp
patterns
photo gallery
photographs
picture frames
pillow
reading light
shade
shade pulls
stem
stripes
wallpaper
window shades

Nature

bamboo tree
banana
bone
branch
bunch
bushes
flowers
grass
moon
moonlight
night
peanuts

peel
shadow
sky
trees

Neighborhoods

lawn
path
sidewalk
sign
signpost
streetlights
walkway

Tools

beam of light
flashlight
key ring
keys
rope

Toys

Babar (toy)
baby bottle
ball
balloon
basket
Ernie (armadillo toy)
handlebars
pacifier (has many names)
pedals
pull toy
seat
string
stuffed toy
tire
tire swing
tricycle
wheels

More vocabulary words follow on the back of this card.

Actions

Use some of these **verbs** (words that express action, existence, or occurrence) in conversations with children each time you look at and talk about *Good Night, Gorilla*.

Gorilla Actions

balance
carry
climb
copy
cover
crawl
creep
cross
drag
enter
eye
feel
fit
follow
grab
grasp
grin
hang
hide
hold
hush
imitate
lead
lean
leave
lie
look
lower
march
open
play
point
quiet
reach
return
scoot
sit
sleep
smile

snatch
sneak
snuggle
speak
stand
step
stop
stretch
swing
tiptoe
touch
turn
unlock
wait
wake up
yawn

Human Actions

bend
carry
check
climb
close (eyes)
dangle
enter
escort
fall asleep
hold
lean
make (the rounds)
patrol
perch
pull
reach
return
shine
sit
sit up
sleep
speak

stretch
take off
tiptoe
turn off
turn on
undress
walk
watch
yawn

Mouse Actions

balance
bite
carry
climb
cross
drag
enter
follow
gnaw
haul
hide
hoist
lean
let down
lie down
lift
look
lower
perch
pull
raise
rest
return
sit
sleep
speak
stand
strain
struggle

tug
tunnel
walk
watch
work
yank

Other Animal Actions

bend
cross
curl up
enter
follow
grasp
hold
hover
join
leave
lick
lie down
lift
line up
lumber
parade
pause
raise
return
roost
signal
sit
sleep
smile
speak
step
step on
stroll
wait
walk
watch

Ideas

Use some of these words connected to the ideas of *surprise*, *bedtime*, and *plans* in conversations with children as you look at and talk about *Good Night, Gorilla*.

Surprise

amaze
amazement
anticipate
anticipation
astonish
astonishment
expect
plan
suspect
unexpected

wonder
wondering
wonderment

Bedtime

active
awake
cuddle
drowsy
energetic
fast asleep

nestle
patient
persistent
sleepy
sound asleep
tired
wakeful
worn out

Plans

change

choice
choose
conclude
consider
decide
decision
determine
idea
intend
intention
think