

GOOD NIGHT, GORILLA

Listening and Understanding

Infant-Toddler

This book is a wordless picture book about saying goodnight to some animals that are sneaking out of their zoo cages. The simple and repetitive story line lends itself to summarizing and retelling events in the story.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

COMMUNICATE



Children will:

- ◆ Comprehend meaning from stories/pictures

Teachers will:

- ◆ Ask children to summarize or retell information

TEACHING TIP

To understand a story, children (and adults) must create a mental picture of what is happening and how events are related. Pausing to 'talk through' the story in a way that summarizes key details and/or links details across pages is a way to support story understanding. It is also a great way to support general language development for young children.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ "We're going to read *Good Night, Gorilla* and talk about what is happening in the story."

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause 3 times to describe what is happening in the story, linking current events to previous events as a summary.
- ◆ Make a final comment that reinforces the idea of making a 'visual picture' of the story.

Ask Children to Summarize or Retell Information

Read: "Goodnight, Hyena. Goodnight giraffe."

Summarize: "Wow! These animals are getting out of the cage. All the animals are being let out of the cage by the naughty gorilla."

Comment: "I am picturing a whole zoo full of escaped animals!"

Read: There are no words, but focus on the page where the animals are following the zookeeper to his house.

Summarize: "The animals are following the zookeeper! They are leaving the zoo because they are out of their cages! The zookeeper isn't noticing, just like he didn't notice the cages were open."

Comment: "I am picturing empty cages and a long line of animals, stretching all the way through the zoo, waiting to follow the zookeeper home!"

Read: "Good night, dear."

Summarize: "The animals are all in the bedroom and are ready to go to sleep. The zookeeper and his wife don't know that the animals are there! He didn't notice them sneak in. Just like he didn't notice the cages were open and didn't notice the line of animals following him home!"

Comment: "I am picturing what a big surprise this is going to be for the people when they realize that all of the animals are sleeping in their room!"

3. REVIEW

- ◆ Summarize, "The gorilla took the zookeeper's keys and let all the animals out of their cages. All the animals followed the zookeeper home and got into bed with the zookeeper and his wife!"

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ After an engaging or preferred activity, ask children to retell what happened. For example, after Choice Time, ask children to tell you about what they did. Use prompting questions like, "Who did you play with?" or "Where did you play?" to support their retell. For more challenge, as children arrive each day, ask them what they did the night before or that morning.