

This book follows a young girl through her home in the Amazon rain forest. It lends itself to encouraging curiosity, exploration, and making observations.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

THINK



Children will:

- ◆ Make increasingly complex observations of the story images
- ◆ Demonstrate eagerness to learn about and discuss a range of topics

Teachers will:

- ◆ Narrate curiosity and exploration

TEACHING TIP

Young children are naturally curious - eager to explore and understand the world around them. When we encourage children to dig into their interests, we support their confidence in their ability to figure things out. Providing the freedom for children to pursue their interests can look like giving them space to observe, take things apart, use their senses, and make things happen. So much learning comes from providing this autonomy!

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “A rain forest is a place filled with lots of trees and plants, and it’s very warm there. Many animals and people live together in the rain forest. Today we’re going to read *Zonia’s Rain Forest*. Let’s see what we can observe as Zonia explores her home.”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to narrate Zonia’s curiosity and exploration.
- ◆ Ask the children to make their own observations of the rain forest scenes.

Narrate Curiosity and Exploration

Read: “She stops to talk with some chatty new neighbors.”

Narrate: “Zonia has been walking through the forest and noticing different plants and animals living near her.”

Ask: “What are Zonia’s new neighbors? What do you notice about her home?”

Read: “Some friends help Zonia see the world in new ways.”

Narrate: “Zonia is exploring way up in a tree. She is looking at everything upside-down as she hangs there.”

Ask: “What do you think Zonia can see from where she’s climbed up to?”

Read: “...something she has not seen before.”

Ask: “What is Zonia noticing here? What’s different about this part of the forest from the rest of the forest she explored earlier?”

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “Zonia used her eyes, ears, hands and whole body as she explored her rain forest home. Exploring is an exciting way to learn more about the things we’re curious in!”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Provide encouragement and tools for children to make close observations in their environment. Heading outside with magnifying glasses can prompt new exploration and observations. Bringing novel materials into the classroom (e.g., natural loose parts like rocks and twigs, herbs and plants, mud or snow) for children to experiment with can also be a way to prompt children’s curiosity when not outdoors.