Teacher Tips

One Night in the Zoo
By Judith Kerr

Before Reading:
• Show children the cover. Ask, “What do you see?” Then, “What do you think this story is going to be about?”

As You Read:
• Explain words the children may not know (astonished, hue) and any silly words (squidberry).
• Have the audience choral read “...but nobody knew.”

After Reading:
• Flip through the pages and together, count the animals.
• Go back to each page and ask, “What did the ______ do?” (Example: The monkeys put the feathers back on the cockatoos.)
• Ask children to name the rhyming words on each page. Write these on the board and point out that rhyming words do not have to be spelled the same. Circle the ones that are spelled the same.
• Show the page where the animals are back in their cages. Find the animals that are not in their cages.

Activities:
• Sketch a flamingo and color with colored pencils. Use the illustration in the book as a model. Create your own background.
• Think of a zoo animal not mentioned in the story. Now think of something silly or unrealistic that it might do one night in the zoo. Share out loud. (Challenge – make it rhyme.)

Themes:
• Animals
• Counting
• Rhyming
Judith Kerr, Author: Judith Kerr. This rhyming counting book is set in a zoo and follows the antics of the various animal inhabitants once night falls. A crocodile and a kangaroo ride a bicycle made for two, rabbits climb a giraffe for the view and monkeys stick a cockatoo’s feathers back on with glue. Kerr’s soft pencil illustrations are delightful and despite the surreal activities her animals get up to, all will be recognisable to young children, who will enjoy counting along and pointing them out on each page. “One moonlit, magical night in the zoo An elephant jumped in the air and flew. But nobody knew.” It’s only once all the visitors have gone home that the real fun starts in the Zoo! Learn to count in a fun and wonderfully imaginative way as you follow all the animals through the night in this gorgeous picture book, and find out what mischief they get into. Book Author: Judith Kerr. See More Books from this author. Teaching Ideas and Resources: English. Imagine that you visited this zoo on this ‘magical, moonlit night’ and you saw everything that happened. Retell the story from your own point of view. Write a newspaper report about a sighting of a flying elephant! Look for examples of rhyming throughout the story. Maths. Here’s a whimsical counting book that celebrates one magical, moonlit night in the zoo with jumping elephants, biking kangaroos, astonishing lions, squidgeberry-stewing bears, and so many more! As for their wee-hour shenanigans, nobody knew least of all the zookeeper and his trusty crew, who could only wonder aloud why the animals all looked so tired the next morning. For those of us who have ever had pets, we just know that the moment we’re not around, they’re getting up, rifling through the fridge, seeing what’s on YouTube (TVs are so old-school), checking their secret Crackbe