

# Wild About Books

by Judy Sierra

Animals in the zoo are introduced to the joy of reading when the bookmobile shows up by mistake – a rollicking rhyming story!



## 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, *Do you think an animal would enjoy being read to?* 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 if the animals all like that book?

### 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. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Wild About Books*

- distance: the length between two things
- conquer: master something difficult
- resistance: refusing to accept or do something
- attracted: draw somebody’s attention or get a response
- stampeding: a sudden rush of animals
- forsaking: to give up
- niches: place in nature
- heaps: many; very much
- craved: to desire or want something
- dramas: serious plays or stories
- overdue: late or delayed
- mucked: messy and dirty
- devoured: eat quickly
- outrageous: excessive or extraordinary
- adventures: exciting experiences
- quills: a sharp hollow shaft
- haiku: a short Japanese poem
- novel: a long story
- memoir: a story of one’s life

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Has anyone ever checked out a book from a bookmobile?
- What "how-to" book did the monkeys read?
- What would be a good book for the elephants to read? Giraffes?
- What book did the otter always take with him while swimming?
- Why did the baboons read in bunches?
- Why did the hyenas choose joke books?
- Molly taught the animals to treat the books right. How are books supposed to be handled?
- Do you think it would be fun to write a book?
- Why did Molly choose twelve beavers, a stork and a gnu to build the branch library? What did each of them do to help?



**Do**

## Rhyme Time!

Read the pairs of words below. Some of the pairs rhyme and some don't. Ask the children to raise their hands when they hear the words that rhyme.

stair/chair

Seuss/moose

beast/lemur

thin/fat

new/true

tall/small

bunches/lunches

tree/zoo

paws/please

found/fight

spell/well

stork/shelves

snug/wild

zoo/door

mink/skink

nooks/books

fat/hat

heaps/how

more/eager

jokes/bones

right/tight

love/lick

bills/quills

tell/ape

day/hooray

mind/find