



What Would the Zoo Do?

By Lynn Salem

8 pages/59 words



Synopsis

The zookeeper’s problems of seals that won’t swim and lions that won’t roar are solved in humorous ways with the help of some ingenious kids with “How-to” books.

Before the First Page

Write animal names on small slips of paper including the animals in the book: seals, lions, snakes and birds. Place folded slips of paper in a bag. Students take turns drawing one animal name from the bag and acting out characteristics of this animal.

Set-Up for Success

Pose the question: “What would you do if the zoo animals wouldn’t do the things you just role-played?” Students can generate creative solutions. Inform the students that the children in this story had to consult their “How-to” books to help the zookeeper solve the problems of the animals’ unusual behavior.

For a supportive introduction students can preview the book, looking through the pictures to see what the zookeeper gives to each animal to help solve the problem.

For a less supportive introduction the teacher may want to leave the solutions in the book as a surprise to the reader.

Independent Reading – Students may need support with **microphones**, page 4; **slither**, page 7.

Guided Reading – Review the suggestions for *Independent Reading*. Include support for **What would the zoo do?, wouldn’t**, page 1. Have students locate **wouldn’t** on several pages.

Learning about Print

- Directionality on multiple lines of text.
- Punctuation marks – period, question mark, apostrophe used in contractions, ellipsis (...).

Key Words and Phrases

What would the zoo do if the	give
them	wouldn’t

Learning about Words

The vocabulary in this book provides opportunities to introduce, practice or enrich the following:

- Compound words – **skateboard**.
- Digraphs – **the, them, bathing, slither, microphone**.
- Verbs – **swim, roar, fly, slither**.
- Contractions – **wouldn’t**.

Assessment Opportunities

The following problem-solving behaviors can be observed and recorded:

- Constructing a hypothesis about the story during the introduction.
- Retelling the story.

- Using pictures as a source of information.
- Attempting to self-correct.
- Using intonation when reading questions.

After the Last Page

- Give the students one minute to tell about a trip to the zoo using a microphone.
- Make zoo animal puppets.
- Role-play different people and animals at the zoo.
- Write a story entitled “The Snake Who Wouldn’t Slither.” Include what prevented the snake from slithering.
- * Write instructions on how to use the objects given to each animal in the story.
Example: For the seal, how to put on a bathing suit. For the lion, how to use a microphone. Sequence these instructions in the proper order.
- Create your own “What’s wrong?” picture. Trade pictures and create a solution to the problem.
- Write animal riddles. Read the riddles aloud and solve them.

Throughout the Day

Math

- * Make counting books using animal pictures.

Problem-Solving

- Brainstorm ideas of things to do if the seals won’t swim. Tally and repeat the activity for each animal in the book.

Social Studies

- Interview a dog trainer. Learn proper animal training techniques.

Science

- Study animal habits and habitats.
- Make a zoo museum or model.
- Write animal reports or fact books and display them with the zoo museum.

The Home Connection

- Visit the zoo and take photographs. Make a family picture album of your outing.
- Make an animal mural from old magazines.

* Show What You Know – a document to keep

Activities marked with an asterisk (*) are appropriate for assessment.

Read on...

Allen, Robert. *The Zoo Book: A Child’s World of Animals*.

Barrett, Judi. *Animals Should Definitely Not Act Like People*.

Ehlert, Lois. *Color Zoo*.

Gibbons, Gail. *Zoo*.

Gorman, Kate. *The Zoo in Willy’s Bed*.

Hoban, Tana. *Children’s Zoo*.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. *To the Zoo*.

McGovern, Ann. *Zoo, Where Are You?*

Marshall, Janet Perry. *My Camera at the Zoo*.

Ormerod, Jan. *When We Went to the Zoo*.

