



Story Summary

Rhyming couplets describe a day in the life of an energetic, little girl who stretches “like a cat” and hangs “like a bat,” while the illustrations show both the child and the succession of imaginary animals she mimics. Her activities wind up

with a gentle goodnight as her parents tuck her, “snuggling like a bear,” into bed.

Do you have a very active child who doesn’t enjoy sitting still for a story? Here is a book to celebrate active kids—they can see themselves on every page. It might even help them become book-lovers!

Additional Resources

Pair this book with:

Rhino Rumpus by Victoria Allenby

Where’s Bunny? by Theo Heras

Time for Bed by Mem Fox

Facts about animals:

- www.animalfactguide.com/animal-facts
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>
- www.pebblego.com if your school has a subscription

Online Videos:

Dancing like animals: www.youtube.com/watch?v=26guG6wr5so

Animal yoga poses to relax before bed: www.youtube.com/watch?v=38ucnkGKK-w

Learn about eels: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdR93OhxdCI

Jane Whittingham is a librarian from Burnaby, British Columbia, and earned her Masters of Library and Information Sciences at UBC with an emphasis on children’s librarianship and literature. Much like the adventurous main character in her first picture book, *Wild One*, Jane loves to travel. And every time she jet-sets across the globe, Jane takes pictures of all the cats who cross her path.

Noel Tuazon was born in Manila, Philippines, but has been living in Toronto, Ontario, since the 1980s. Noel studied Fine Arts and Art History at the University of Toronto and Animation at Max the Mutt. Since 2006, Noel has worked on storyboard revisions at Nelvana Animation for TV shows such as *Grossology*, *Babar And The New Adventures of Badou*, and *Ranger Rob*.

Picture Book Ages 1–4 | ISBN: 978-1-77278-036-9 | Pages: 24

Themes

Celebrating an active child, family, daily routines

BISAC Codes

JUV051000 JUVENILE FICTION / Imagination & Play

JUV002000 JUVENILE FICTION / Animals / General

JUV010000 JUVENILE FICTION / Bedtime & Dreams

JUV057000 JUVENILE FICTION / Stories in Verse

FOUNTAS & PINNELL

Guided Reading Level: D | Grade Level Equivalent: K | Interest Level by Grade: PreK–2

Curriculum Connections

- Self Esteem / positive self-image
- Healthy active lifestyle
- Dance: using movement to depict creatures and objects in the world around them
- Language and Comprehension skills: rhyme, prediction, inferring

Before Reading

Discuss:

- Wild One—Do you think she likes to pretend she’s an animal? Let’s find out. As I read, I want you to try and think what animal the girl is acting out before I turn the page.

During Reading

Discuss:

- P.3 “Think of an animal...” Read the page, then pause briefly (one second)
- P.4 “Stretching like a ____” (kids can fill in “cat”. If they don’t, prompt by pointing to the cat)
- P.5 Read the page, then pause briefly
- P.6 “hanging like a ____.” Oh! Did you notice? Bat rhymes with cat. Cat, bat. Maybe that will help us guess the next ones. (Many pre-schoolers do not yet hear rhyme, but it is never too early to model it. On subsequent readings, rhyme may help them recall which animal comes next before the page is turned.)
- Continue this shared reading through page 14 (you may have to provide the words “eel” and “guppy”).
- P.15 Where have they been? Where are they going? Where did they stop on the way (grocery store, maybe). How do you know? (can infer from picture). If children don’t guess, point to grocery bag. How does the little girl feel? How do you know? Does she still have lots of energy? Continue shared reading, with children filling in the animal names, to the end.

After Reading

Discuss:

- What are some good choices the little girl made? (healthy active lifestyle, making friends, drinking milk). Did she make some choices that were not so good? (This is open to interpretation but kids might identify some things that they are not allowed to do). But do her parents always love her even if she makes poor choices? How do you know? (my dearest one).
- What do you think the girl and her parents did to get her settled down and ready for bed?

Activities

- Put on some instrumental music and read the story over it while the child(ren) act out the animals mentioned. Optional—show the pages on a screen using a document camera
- Go to the park! Take photos of your own child(ren) doing animal tricks. Print them out and make your own book.
- Play an animal moves dance or exercise video (suggestion above)
- Animal Charades: Make small cards with pictures of different animals. The children can help make them if you provide old nature magazines for them to cut them from. One child picks a card from a basket, looks at the picture, and acts out the animal. The others try to guess.
- Research guppies. Who knows? You might decide to get one (or more) as a pet.
- At home: Make and post a visual list of your child’s actual bedtime routines, using photos of the child doing each task: e.g. taking a bath, putting on pajamas, brushing teeth, listening to a story, kissing parents good-night, snuggling into bed with a stuffed animal. This will help the child develop independence in following the steps of his/her own bedtime routine. Some parents may find it useful to include calming exercises as part of the routine. A short yoga video is suggested above. Once learned, the exercises can be used without the video.