

A TALE WITH TAILS

AGES

Children 8+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Have children supply the missing nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. from the stories provided: "A Trip to the Zoo," "A Backyard Adventure," and "A Kooky Animal Tale." Then read the tale(s) out loud. This could be a fun icebreaker before another program, or copies could simply be placed with other library flyers. See Resources for a list of fiction with animal protagonists. Suggested runtime: 30 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Print a copy of the story for you to fill in, or print multiple copies for patrons.

RESOURCES

Animal Protagonist Fiction

Early Readers

Brambleheart (2016) by Cole Henry

Claude in the City (Claude #1) (2013) by Alex T. Smith

The Cookie Fiasco (Elephant and Piggie #1) (2016) by Mo Willems and Dan Santat

Duck, Duck, Porcupine! (Duck Duck Porcupine #1) (2016) by Salina Yoon

Frog and Toad Are Friends (1970) by Arnold Lobel

A New Friend (Adventures of Sophie Mouse #1) (2015) by Poppy Green and Jennifer A. Bell

The Party and Other Stories (Fox and Chick #1) (2018) by Sergio Ruzzier

Party at the Pond (Frog and Friends #1) (2011) by Eve Bunting and Josée Mass

Rafi and Rosi: Carnival! (Rafi and Rosi) (2016) by Lulu Delacre

Tiger vs. Nightmare (2018) by Emily Tetri

TIP:

For a twist, have children cut out words from old newspapers and magazines; they supply the missing words from their pile of clippings.

ADAPTATION:

Ask older children to make their own kooky tales! First have them write a simple animal story, then walk them through which words to remove. Test out their stories as a group. Talk about what makes a good story.

Middle Grade

The Bad Guys (2016) by Aaron Blabey

Bird and Squirrel on the Run (*Bird and Squirrel #1*) (2012) by James Burks

Cats Reporting on News That Matters to Cats (*Breaking Cat News #1*) (2016) by Georgia Dunn

The Cheshire Cheese Cat: A Dickens of a Tale (2011) by Carmen Agra Deedy, Randall Wright, and Barry Moser

Clyde (2019) by Jim Benton

Coraline (2002) by Neil Gaiman

Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures (2013) by Kate DiCamillo and K.G. Campbell

Korgi (*Korgi #1*) (2007) by Christian Slade

Lowriders in Space (*Low Riders in Space #1*) (2014) by Cathy Camper and Raúl the Third

Mutt's Promise (2016) by Julie Salamon and Jill Weber

The One and Only Ivan (2015) by K.A. Applegate and Patricia Castelao

Queen of the World! (*Babymouse #1*) (2005) by Jennifer Holm and Matthew Holm

Rabbit's Bad Habits (*Rabbit and Bear #1*) (2019) by Julian Gough

Snazzy Cat Capers (*Snazzy Cat Capers #1*) (2018) by Deanna Kent and Neil Hooson

The Tale of Despereaux (2003) by Kate DiCamillo and Timothy Basil Ering

Thundercluck! Chicken of Thor (*Thundercluck! #1*) (2018) by Paul Tillery IV and Meg Wittwer

Varjak Paw (2009) by S.F. Said

A Wolf Called Wander (2019) by Roseanne Parry and Mónica Armijo

A TRIP TO THE ZOO

It was a _____, _____ day. Willa and Jackson thought
adjective weather adjective
it would be a great day to go to the zoo. They _____ into the
verb
_____ and asked their mom if she would take them. "What
room in house
a _____ idea!" she exclaimed. "Let's go!"
adjective

They approached the ticket window where they were greeted by a
_____ zoo employee. "_____ tickets, please!" Jackson
adjective number
said. The three enthusiastic visitors entered the main gate and headed
straight toward the _____ house. After spending 20 minutes
animal
_____ at the baby monkey jumping up and down in a
verb ending in -ing
_____, they decided to go visit the _____ elephants.
noun adjective
Seeing them eat the juicy _____ made Jackson and Willa very
type of fruit
hungry! Mom took them to the snack bar where they ordered

_____, _____, and _____. "Let's get going!"
type of food type of food type of drink
said Willa. We still have to see the _____, _____, and
animal, plural animal, plural
_____.
animal, plural

As they left the zoo with _____ in hand, they thanked their
noun
_____ for a _____ day at the zoo.
family member adjective



A BACKYARD ADVENTURE

Sam and Julia always enjoyed visiting their _____ because (he/
family member
 she/they) always made the best _____ pie. (He/she/they) also
type of fruit
 had a great big back yard with lots of _____ and _____.
noun noun

On one of their visits, Sam and Julia asked their _____ if
same family member as above
 they could set tent and camp in the back yard. (He/she/they) said that
 would be fine as long as it was not _____. After lunch, Sam and
type of weather
 Julia set up a tent and their camping _____. They used their
piece of furniture
 imagination to pretend they were explorers visiting _____.
a favorite place

The first animal they pretended to see was a _____ with
animal
 _____ claws. Then they saw a _____ with
adjective another type of animal
 _____ feathers and _____. Suddenly they heard
adjective body part, plural
 something rustling in the _____ bush, and it was not their
same fruit as above
 imagination! Sam and Julia thought for sure it must be a huge, scary
 _____ with a thick, _____ coat. They were about to run
animal adjective
 back into the house when they hear a familiar laugh. It was only
 _____ ! All three of them went back inside to eat some
same family member as above

_____ *adjective* _____ *type of food*



A KOOKY ANIMAL TALE

I was out _____ in the forest on a _____ day
gerund (-ing verb) weather adjective

in _____. When I looked up, I was surprised to see _____
month number

_____ swinging on tree branches by their _____.
type of animal animal body part, plural

Then they took off _____. I followed them so far that I got lost
gerund (-ing verb)

and ended up in a field of _____. All of a sudden, they turned
noun, plural

from _____ to _____. Then they joined a huge
color color

group of _____ under a _____. By
gerund (-ing verb) type of animal, plural noun

the time a swarm of _____ joined in, I felt so _____
type of insect, plural emotion

that I wanted to go home. I decided that the next time I went
 _____ in the forest, I'd be sure to bring a _____
gerund (-ing verb) type of animal

_____ on a leash to protect me.
adjective

