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Activity Guide

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Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing

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ABOUT THE STORY

It's a fact that just about any animal you can think of would be better off if it didn't wear clothes. But did you ever stop to imagine what could happen if some of them did? The author, Judi Barrett, and the artist, Ron Barrett, take a very funny look at some of the possibilities.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Judi Barrett, who also teaches art to children, has written many award-winning books, including *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* and *Pickles to Pittsburgh*, both of which are also available as Live Oak Readalongs. Ron Barrett was formerly an advertising art director and consultant to the Children's Television Workshop before turning to children's book illustration.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the group to think about how sometimes clothes can be a problem for them. For example, a hat that is too big can fall down over your eyes. Pants that are too long can trip you. Point out that people sometimes put clothes on animals. On cold days, some people dress dogs in sweaters and put blankets on horses. But what if the animals decided to wear clothes – and made all the wrong choices?

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What would a snake do with its clothes?"
- "What would happen if a mouse wore clothing?"
- "Where would a camel wear its clothes?"
- "How would a sheep feel if it wore clothing?"
- "What would happen to a walrus's clothes?"
- "Which of the animal's clothes did you find the funniest or most surprising?
(Make judgments)

Vocabulary

The words below all contain double consonants or double vowels. Have children copy the words and circle the double consonants or vowels. Then ask volunteers to use each word in a sentence.

terribly unnecessary silly opossums messy giraffe
billy embarrassing moose all sheep kangaroo

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Science: Animals' Clothes

Point out to children that in a way, animals do wear clothes – their skin covering. Have children name the "clothes" these animals wear: snakes; sheep; ducks; fish; lobsters; clams; porcupines. Lead children to see that the "clothes" these animals wear are a form of protection.

Language Arts: Animals Should Definitely Not...

Have the group work together to create a book of other things animals should definitely not do. Some possibilities include: eat at the table; attend the opera; drive cars; go to the pool. Encourage children to illustrate their ideas and bind the pages together for a class book.

Art: Animal Fashion Magazines

Have children think of animals not in the book who would look especially funny in clothing. They can draw pictures of the animals in clothing, using their imaginations to make the pictures as colorful and silly as possible. Collect the illustrations together in an animal fashion magazine.

Language Arts: Unscrambling Words

Write the following scrambled words on the board as they appear below. Seven of the words are the names of animals that appear in the book. The eighth word is the name of an animal that is not in the book and has a very long name.

roiepcupn	(porcupine)	esmuo	(mouse)
ogkanroa	(kangaroo)	fgrfeia	(giraffe)
ogta yblil	(billy goat)	lecma	(camel)
srwalu	(walrus)	mpoouss	(opossum)

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Dogs in Clothes

The artist William Wegman dresses his dogs in clothing and photographs them in human poses. Using the keywords *William Wegman*, have children find examples of his photographs on the Internet. They can print out the photo they like the best and show it to the rest of the group.