

Story Book Activity

GIRAFFE'S CAN'T DANCE

Written by Giles Andreae
Illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees



With Some Gentle Encouragement It Turns
Out Giraffe's Can Dance.

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What is a story book activity?

Story books anchor an idea into our brains. Reading a story to your students helps to develop their brains with a narrative and a visual.

The story book activities help your students to develop an idea and explore it further.

Instructions Guide

'Giraffe's Can't Dance' celebrates how something we think we cannot do can change when we receive encouragement. Gerald didn't feel confident in his dancing skills until he chatted with a cricket. This rhyming story explores how our opinions of our skills can be altered by our audience. It brings up conversation around being supportive of our friends and confident in taking chances.

This book is a good introduction to exploring actions and verbs. Looking at the ways we move our body's and the words we use to describe the movements. As you come to an action word/verb in the story your students can act them out. You can explore other actions each particular animal might make. You could make a list of each

animal in the book and place a verb label under them.

Verbs describe an action, state, or occurrence, but in this activity we're just looking at the actions. Start the lesson by playing some different types of music. Encourage your students to interpret the music by the way they move and dance. Choose contrasting styles of music, world music, different paced music, classical music. Ask your students to use words to describe what they're doing with their body - swaying, jumping, jiggling, stamping, etc.

Then I read them the book, Giraffe's Can't Dance, and we discuss the story and the characters. Gerald felt awkward and unable to dance until he chatted with the wise cricket and gained a different perspective. This opens up conversations with your students about

things they don't feel confident doing or are worried they may not be able to do. Giraffe's Can't Dance gives your students an opportunity to explore verbs by thinking about the way they move their bodies, and using different words to describe their actions.

This opens up conversations with your students about how their actions can impact others. If they're encouraging it helps their friends to take chances and explore new things. If they're critical or dismissive of their friends it can impact what they do. Gerald had the confidence to dance because the cricket was supportive and encouraging. We can often attempt challenges and be braver if we feel like we're being supported by our friends. Our actions have a direct impact on others.

You can explore verbs using the word labels. Your students could choose five labels they think could describe a dance. They could classify the verb labels into things they like to do and things they don't like to do. They could sort them into groups of things they do and things they don't do. They could play charades by working in small groups, sharing out the word labels, and then reading and acting out their verb for their peers to guess. They could add prefixes and suffixes to the word labels to change the meaning.

This is an interactive exercise where your students are reading and then acting out the verbs they read. Enjoy!

Story books

These are other story books exploring characters and their actions.

Suggested Story Books

- We All Play by Julie Flett
- Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall
- It's Hard To Be A Verb by Julia Cook
- From Head to Toe by Eric Carle

Print out on card and cut along lines to make Action Word Cards with vowels highlighted.

Multi sensory - Movements/Actions

clap

stand

bend

rest

swim

sit

stop

rock

run

jump

jig

stomp

kiss

bop

bump

mend

flip

stamp

skip

kick

lift

peck

twist

pat

hug

block

lick

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