

Who of Little Gorilla's friends live in the trees? The monkey and the parrot.

What kinds of animals are Little Gorilla's friends?

Where does Little Gorilla live? In the forest.

When is Little Gorilla surprised? When his friends bring him a cake.

Why do Little Gorilla's friends sing to him? *Because it's his birthday!*

Little Gorilla – Monday

First Read-Aloud

1) Before reading - introduce characters and the problem.

- (a) Characters –
 - (i) Little Gorilla – A young, small gorilla
 - (ii) Little Gorilla's friends and family – All of the animals in the jungle who are Little Gorilla's friends, as well as Little Gorilla's mother and father, grandma, grandpa, aunts and uncles
- (b) Problems –
 - (i) Little Gorilla has many friends in the forest who love him. Little Gorilla starts growing bigger and bigger and bigger, until he's no longer little – one day, he's BIG! All of his friends and family bring him a cake and sing "Happy Birthday" to him, because it is Little Gorilla's birthday. They still love him no matter if he's big or small.

2) While reading - expand vocabulary: introduce 8-10 words to highlight and define (show pictures & act out).

***** For all of these animals, you can just point to them in the book and talk about what they look like. *****

- i) Gorilla
- ii) Butterfly
- iii) Parrot
- iv) Monkey
- v) Boa Constrictor
- vi) Giraffe
- vii) Lion
- viii) Elephant
- ix) Hippo
- x) Forest – a place with lots of trees and plants, where animals live in the wild
- xi) Zoo – a place where wild animals live in cages so people can visit them
- xii) Zookeeper – the person at the zoo who takes care of the animals: feeds them, cleans them, helps them if they're a little sick

3) Comment on main character's thoughts and feelings.

- (a) Little Gorilla is happy because so many of his friends and family in the forest love him.
- (b) Little Gorilla is sad when he grows big.
- (c) Little Gorilla is surprised when his friends bring him a cake and sing "Happy Birthday" to him.
- (d) Little Gorilla is happy again when his friends throw him a birthday party, and he knows they still love him.

4) After reading - invite explanations, wonder aloud, and ask follow-up questions.

- (a) *How do you think Little Gorilla felt when he grew so big?* Sad, and maybe confused.
- (b) *Why did Little Gorilla's friends sing to him?* Because it was his birthday, and that's why he'd grown so big!
- (c) *Do you think you grow bigger when you have birthdays? How old are you now? Are you bigger than you were when you were 3? (Or 2?)*

Little Gorilla – Tuesday and Wednesday

Second and Third Read-Alouds

1) Before reading - introduce characters and the problem.

- (a) Characters –
 - (i) Little Gorilla – A young, small gorilla
 - (ii) Little Gorilla's friends and family – All of the animals in the jungle who are Little Gorilla's friends, as well as Little Gorilla's mother and father, grandma, grandpa, aunts and uncles
- (b) Problems –
 - (i) Little Gorilla has many friends in the forest who love him. Little Gorilla starts growing bigger and bigger and bigger, until he's no longer little – one day, he's BIG! All of his friends and family sing "Happy Birthday" to him, because it is Little Gorilla's birthday, and they still love him.

2) While reading - expand vocabulary: introduce 8-10 words to highlight and define (show pictures & act out).

*** *For all of these animals, you can just point to them in the book and talk about what they look like.* ***

- i) Gorilla
- ii) Butterfly
- iii) Parrot
- iv) Monkey
- v) Boa Constrictor
- vi) Giraffe
- vii) Lion
- viii) Elephant
- ix) Hippo
- x) Forest – a place with lots of trees and plants, where animals live in the wild
- xi) Zoo – a place where wild animals live in cages so people can visit them
- xii) Zookeeper – the person at the zoo who takes care of the animals: feeds them, cleans them, helps them if they're a little sick

3) Comment on main character's thoughts and feelings.

- (a) Little Gorilla is happy because so many of his friends and family in the forest love him.
- (b) Little Gorilla is sad when he grows big.
- (c) Little Gorilla is surprised when his friends bring him a cake and sing "Happy Birthday" to him.
- (d) Little Gorilla is happy again when all of friends bring him a cake and sing "Happy Birthday" to him, and he knows they still love him.

4) After reading - invite explanations, wonder aloud, and ask follow-up questions.

- (a) *How do you think Little Gorilla felt when he grew so big?* Sad, and maybe confused.
- (b) *Why did Little Gorilla's friends sing to him?* Because it was his birthday, and that's why he'd grown so big!
- (c) *Do you think you grow bigger when you have birthdays? How old are you now? Are you bigger than you were when you were 3? (Or 2?)*

Little Gorilla – Thursday and Friday

Fourth & Fifth Read-Alouds

1) Before reading - encourage children to recall characters, problem and solution.

(a) Characters –

- (i) *Do you remember who this story is about? Little Gorilla. Where does Little Gorilla live? He lives in a forest. Why kinds of animals are Little Gorilla's friends?*
- (ii) *What happens to Little Gorilla? He grows very big! How does this make him feel? Sad and confused.*
- (iii) *What do Little Gorilla's friends do for him after he grows so big? They have a birthday party for him. They sing "Happy Birthday," and bring him a cake.*
- (iv) *How does it make Little Gorilla feel when all of his friends sing to him? Happy, because he knows they love him no matter how big or small he is.*

(b) Problem –

- (i) *The main problem in this story was that Little Gorilla grew up and became very big, and he didn't know why he was growing. He was growing bigger because he was getting older – and it was his birthday, so Little Gorilla's friends surprised him with a birthday cake and sang him "Happy Birthday," and Little Gorilla was happy because he knew his friends still loved him.*

2) While reading - expand vocabulary by introducing 8-10 words to highlight and define (show pictures & act out).

***** For all of these animals, you can just point to them in the book and talk about what they look like. *****

Gorilla

Butterfly

Parrot

Monkey

Boa Constrictor

Giraffe

Lion

Elephant

Forest – a place with lots of trees and plants, where animals live in the wild

Zoo – a place where wild animals live in cages so people can visit them

Zookeeper – the person at the zoo who takes care of the animals: feeds them, cleans them, helps them if they're a little sick

3) After reading - ask questions and comment on character's thoughts, feelings, and actions.

- (a) *Little Gorilla has so many friends! How do you think that makes him feel? Happy.*
- (b) *How do you think Little Gorilla feels when he grows bigger and bigger? Sad and confused.*
- (c) *Little Gorilla is surprised when his friends bring him a birthday cake and sing him "Happy Birthday"! He didn't know it was his birthday. How do you think Little Gorilla feels at his birthday party? Happy.*

4) Guide children to retell the story. Read pages between retellings. Ask questions that help children recall events of the story and explain what characters are thinking and feeling.

- (a) *Who is this? It's Little Gorilla. What kinds of animal friends does Little Gorilla have? Do you remember?*
- (b) *Which friends are in these trees? Green Parrot and Red Monkey.*
- (c) *Oh, do you remember what kind of animal a boa constrictor is? A snake.*
- (d) *What are the elephants doing to Little Gorilla? Washing him!*

- (e) *What kind of sound does a Lion make? Is Lion loud or quiet?* His roar is loud.
- (f) *How does Little Gorilla look like he's feeling when he gets big?* Sad.
- (g) *Why was Little Gorilla growing so big?* He was getting older, and when you get older, you grow bigger.
- (h) *How does Little Gorilla feel at the end of the story?* Happy.

5) After reading - invite explanations, wonder aloud, and ask follow-up questions.

- (a) *Where do the animals in this story live?* In the forest.
- (b) *Do you remember the name of the place where we can go look at animals in San Diego?* The Zoo.
- (c) *Have you ever been to the zoo? What kind of animals did you see (or, what kind of animals would you like to see)?*
- (d) *A zookeeper is a person who takes care of the animals at a zoo. Do you think that sounds like a fun job?*