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**One Night in the Zoo**  
By Judith Kerr

**Before Reading:**

- Show children the cover. Ask, “What do you see?” Then, “What do you think this story is going to be about?”

**As You Read:**

- Explain words the children may not know (astonished, hue) and any silly words (squidberry).
- Have the audience choral read “...but nobody knew.”

**After Reading:**

- Flip through the pages and together, count the animals.
- Go back to each page and ask, “What did the \_\_\_\_\_ do?” (Example: The monkeys put the feathers back on the cockatoos.)
- Ask children to name the rhyming words on each page. Write these on the board and point out that rhyming words do not have to be spelled the same. Circle the ones that are spelled the same.
- Show the page where the animals are back in their cages. Find the animals that are not in their cages.

**Activities:**

- Sketch a flamingo and color with colored pencils. Use the illustration in the book as a model. Create your own background.
- Think of a zoo animal not mentioned in the story. Now think of something silly or unrealistic that it might do one night in the zoo. Share out loud. (Challenge – make it rhyme.)

**Themes:**

- Animals
- Counting
- Rhyming

The first sentence of this book already captures the audience "One magical, moonlit night in the zoo", and leads you the reader wanting to find out more. It tells the tale of what animals get up to at night in a zoo. The language and structure gives the book a poetic feel. This book uses a rhyming pattern throughout which ensures it stays "snappy" and the audience engaged. The zoo keepers say that the animals look so tired what could they have been up to but the One night in the zoo, the weirdest unexpected things were happening. An elephant jumped in the air and flew, a Kangaroo and crocodile were cycling, lions were doing magic tricks, and bears were cooking and many other strange things. 24 unnumbered pages : 29 cm. A wonderful new counting book from Judith Kerr, the best-selling author of the Mog series and The Tiger Who Came to Tea. 'One moonlit, magical night in the zoo, an elephant jumped in the air and flew. But nobody knew.'. It's only once all the visitors have gone home that the real fun starts in the zoo! Follow all the animals throughout the night in this gorgeous picture book and find out what mischief they get into. This is what the best children's books are made of: magical imagination, silly and creative instances and pure fun. One Night in the Zoo has all that and more. Kerr's carefully drawn, colorful menagerie perks the imagination and invites readers to pretend along-which we do all too willingly and discover pure fun! Little ones will love counting the animals and turning the page to see what new clever event awaits. Read more. 2 people found this helpful. Judith Kerr, Author: Judith Kerr. This rhyming counting book is set in a zoo and follows the antics of the various animal inhabitants once night falls. A crocodile and a kangaroo ride a bicycle made for two, rabbits climb a giraffe for the view and monkeys stick a cockatoo's feathers back on with glue. Kerr's soft pencil illustrations are delightful and despite the surreal activities her animals get up to, all will be recognisable to young children, who will enjoy counting along and pointing them out on each page. It's only when all the visitors have gone home that the real fun starts in the zoo! Enjoy counting the wide variety of animals as you follow them through the night, and find out what mischief they get into. A summary showing each animal in the book in number order supports children in recapping what they have read. Lime/Band 11 books have longer sentence structures and a greater use of literary language. Ideas for reading at the back of the book provide practical support and stimulating activities.