



HELLO BABY!

AUTHOR: MEM FOX

ILLUSTRATOR: STEVE JENKINS

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Hello Baby!](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

After meeting a bevy of baby animals— including a clever monkey, a sleepy leopard, and a dusty lion cub—the baby in this story discovers the most precious creature of all . . . itself, of course! With an exuberant rhyming text by bestselling author Mem Fox and adorable cut-paper illustrations by Caldecott Honor recipient Steve Jenkins, this book is an irresistible celebration of the joyful connection between parent and child.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mem Fox was born in Melbourne, grew up in Africa, went to drama school in England, and came back to Australia in 1970, aged 22. In 1983 Mem became Australia's best-selling writer. *Possum Magic*, her first book, is still available in hardback after 34 years and has become a beacon of children's literature for millions of Australian families. She has written over 40 children's books and several non-fiction books for adults. Her books have been translated into twenty-one languages, and many of them have been international best sellers. Mem is a retired Associate Professor of Literacy Studies from Flinders University, South Australia, where she taught teachers for 24 years. She has received many civic honors and awards, and three honorary doctorates. Her latest book, *I'm Australian Too*, takes her back to where she started: her passion for Australia. She hopes it will spark spirited discussions about Australian-ness, create an awareness of Australian immigration over the centuries, and begin to calm the rising racism in Australia.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Steve Jenkins was born in Hickory, North Carolina. When he was young, he worked with his father (a scientist) on a book about the Solar System. He has lived in North Carolina, Panama, Virginia, Kansas, and Colorado. Wherever he lived, he kept a menagerie of lizards, turtles, spiders, and other animals, collected rocks and fossils, and blew things up in his small chemistry lab. Steve went to art school in North Carolina, where he studied graphic design. Then he moved to New York City and worked with his wife, Robin Page, in their small graphic design firm. Robin is also an author and illustrator and a frequent collaborator (they've made sixteen children's books together). They now live in Boulder, Colorado, with their three children. His children ask him a lot of questions, which give him ideas for stories.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

HELLO BABY!

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Animals
- Babies
- Rhymes

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- (cover) I wonder what this book is going to be about?
- The title of the book is "Hello Baby". What kind of babies do you think this book is about?
- Let's see if we can hear the rhyming words in the story

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 1) Whose hand is shown on this page?
- (p. 2) What is shown on this page? What kind of animal might have this tail?
- (p. 4) How are the monkey's toes "clever"?
- (p. 5-6) I wonder what kind of animal this is?
- (p. 11-12) Can you yawn? Do you think all animals yawn?
- (p. 13-14) What kind of animal is this? What is it doing? What time of day is "dusk"?
- (p. 17-18) What kind of animal is this?
- (p. 23-24) What is this animal doing? What is the word in the corner? What is the mark next to the word "no"?
- (p. 25-26) What babies are shown on these pages?
- (p. 27-28) Who is the person who said "Hello baby" in the beginning of the book? What does the baby answer?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- What was your favorite animal in this story?
- I wonder how many animals were in the story? Does anyone have a guess? (p. 25-26)
- What sound does the _____ make?
- Which of the animals live in trees? On land? In water?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- (p. 4) Do the monkey's toes look like your toes?
- (p. 5) Can you "twitch" your nose?
- (p. 9-10) Can you roll your eyes like a gecko?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Put your finger on your nose when you hear a rhyming word
- Put your hands up when you see a "?" (question mark).

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Go through the book and make the sounds of each animal.