



IF I WERE A JUNGLE ANIMAL

AUTHOR: AMANDA ELLERY

ILLUSTRATOR: TOM ELLERY

See a video of the book read aloud here: [If I Were a Jungle Animal](#)

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

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Morton is bored playing baseball all the way in the outfield. But if he were in the jungle, he could be a lion or a zebra or a hippopotamus! Yeah, if he were a jungle animal, then things would be exciting. But maybe too much excitement is too distracting! After all, a ball could be coming right toward him!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

As parents of three growing children, Tom and Amanda Ellery have a lot of practice imagining what it would be like to live in the jungle. But in reality, Tom is an Emmy award winning director and artist who has worked in the animation industry for almost 20 years. He has several Disney animated credits. He met Amanda, who is a freelance writer, while she was also working at Disney Studios. Their first book, *If I Had a Dragon* also stars Morton. The Ellery's live in Santa Clarita, California.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

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

- What do you think is happening on the cover?
- What animals do you notice?
- I wonder where this story takes place? How do you know?
- Let's count how many words are in the title
- Do you think this is a real story or a made-up story? Why do you think so?

DURING THE STORY

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

- (p.2) Look how big these letters are! When we see big letters like this in a book, that usually means someone is saying it very loudly! Let's say it loudly together! (Have students repeat the words with you)
- (p.4) Why isn't Morton paying attention? Look at Morton. How do you think he feels? Why?

IF I WERE A JUNGLE ANIMAL

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Imaginations
- Jungle animals
- Feelings

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 notice anything else?"

- (p.14) After the monkey page, stop and ask the students to predict what kind of animal he might be next.
- (p.15) Touch your nose if you guessed correct!
- (p17-18) I've noticed that each animal, has some trouble! What is happening to the giraffe?
- (p.20) What is a herd? Can you predict what trouble the zebra will have?
- (p.22) Touch your head if you were surprised at the zebra's trouble!
- (p.24) What do you notice on the parrot's head? Why is the hat there? Have the other animals had a hat? (look back to check)
- (p.25) Oh no! What happened to the parrot's plans?
- (p.29) How is the hippopotamus feeling? How can you tell?
- (p.36) Why are the letters so big? Do you think Morton will catch the ball? Hold up your pretend glove if you think so!
- (p.37) How does Morton feel now? How can you tell?

AFTER READING

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

- Why do you think Morton was imagining himself to be a jungle animal? Why do you think he always imagined trouble?
- Did Morton's strategy work?
- How does the illustrator show how Morton and the animals feel?
- Is this story fiction (make believe) or nonfiction (real)? Why do you think that?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Which is your favorite animal? Why?
- When do you get bored? What strategy do you use to not be bored? Do you use your imagination?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Choose an animal and have students act out the animal.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Sequence the story. Print the attached pictures of the animals in the story. Cut out. Have students as a group sequence them either on the rug or in a pocket chart.

