



THE WATCHER: JANE GOODALL'S LIFE WITH THE CHIMPS

AUTHOR: JEANETTE WINTER

ILLUSTRATOR: JEANETTE WINTER

See a video of the book read aloud here: [The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Lifer with the Chimps](#)

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

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Acclaimed picture book biographer Jeanette Winter has found her perfect subject: Jane Goodall, the great observer of chimpanzees. Follow Jane from her childhood in London watching a robin on her windowsill, to her years in the African forests of Gombe, Tanzania, invited by brilliant scientist Louis Leakey to observe chimps, to her worldwide crusade to save these primates (who are now in danger of extinction) and their habitat. Young animal lovers will welcome this fascinating and moving portrait of an extraordinary person and the animals to whom she has dedicated her life. *The Watcher* was named a Best Book of the Year by the *Boston Globe*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Booklist*, and the Bank Street College of Education. ([amazon.com](#))

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Jeanette Winter is an award-winning author and illustrator of children's books. She has illustrated books for other authors and has written many self-illustrated titles. Many of Jeanette's books are based on true stories. She has also illustrated three books written by her son, Jonah Winter, including *Diego*, a biography of Diego Rivera and winner of a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book of the Year. A BFA graduate of the University of Iowa, she also attended the Art

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

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

- What clues does the cover illustration give you as to what this book might be about?
- Why would the author want to write about "life with the chimps"?
- Introduce the title, author and illustrator.
- Do you think this will be fiction or non-fiction?

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TOPICS & THEMES:

- Women in science
- Nature
- Patience
- Preservation

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?"

- Listen to find out how someone named Jane Goodall realized her dream.

DURING THE STORY

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

- (dedication) We can find interesting facts by reading this page, called the dedication page.
- (p.4) What kind of job do you think Jane might want when she grows up?
- (p.10) How did Jane know she would be prepared for this new opportunity?
- (p.18) I wonder how Jane was able to persevere for so long.
- (p.24) Why do you think Jane kept notes about her observations with the chimps?
- (p.30) How do you think people would feel if they knew about these chimps?
- (p.36) How do you think Jane will help the chimps?

AFTER READING

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

- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What do you think the author's message is to the reader?
- What lesson can we learn from reading about Jane Goodall?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Stand up and give your best chimp impressions!

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Discuss with your neighbor how Jane's work with the chimps can affect the future of their lives.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Conduct a picture walk and let students find their favorite page and tell why.
- How did Jane's early interests help her decide to observe animals?
- What did Jane learn by living in Gombe near the chimps?
- I wonder if scientists changed their ideas after learning about Jane's observations?
- How was living in Africa different from living at home for Jane?
- What other animals do you think who might be endangered?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Watch the 3-minute video [First Look at Jane.](#)

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write a paragraph about three things that Jane learned from observing the chimps.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Fold a piece of paper into fourths. Draw a picture of 4 animals you think may be endangered and write a sentence for each, telling what we can do to help them.