



ZOMO THE RABBIT

AUTHOR: GERALD MCDERMOTT

ILLUSTRATOR: GERALD MCDERMOTT

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Zomo the Rabbit](#)

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

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

“Zomo the rabbit, a trickster from West Africa, wants wisdom. But he must accomplish three apparently impossible tasks before Sky God will give him what he wants. Is he clever enough to do as Sky God asks? “The tale moves along with the swift concision of a good joke, right down to its satisfying punch line.”--*Publishers Weekly* “Wildly exuberant, full of slapstick and mischief, this version of an enduring Nigerian trickster tale, featuring a clever rabbit, is a storyteller’s delight.” [Amazon](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

“Caldecott Medalist Gerald McDermott's illustrated books and animated films have brought him international recognition. He is highly regarded for his culturally diverse works inspired by traditional African and Japanese folktales, hero tales of the Pueblos, and the archetypal mythology of Egypt, Greece, and Rome. It was his fascination with the imagery of African folklore that led him to the story of Anansi the Spider. McDermott was born in Detroit, Michigan. He attended Cass Technical High School, where he was awarded a National Scholastic Scholarship to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Once in New York, he began to produce and direct a series of animated films on mythology in consultation with renowned mythologist Joseph Campbell. These films became the basis for McDermott's first picture books.” [Gerald McDermott](#)

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

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

- Whisper to your neighbor what you notice about the animal on the cover of the book.
- Introduce the title and author.
- What clues does the cover indicate about the setting?
- Where do you think the setting will be in this book?
- What can you remember about fairy tales, folk tales and myths?
- Do you think this story will have anything in common with the story Rapunzel?
- Listen and see if Zomo the Rabbit has any tricks up his sleeve.

DURING THE STORY

Use these questions while reading the story to help students interpret the action and con-

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TOPICS & THEMES:

- FAIRY TALES
- FOLK TALES
- DIVERSE CULTURES
- MORAL

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?”

tent.
(Comprehension - connections to world/self- print referencing - open ended questions - phonological awareness).

- (p.4) I wonder why Zomo also wanted wisdom?
- (p.6) How do you think Zomo will accomplish these three tasks?
- (p.12) Do you think fish can lose their scales in real life?
- (p.18) How did the cow feel when Zomo tricked her?
- (p.26) I wonder what could have happened after he picked up the tooth?
- (p.30) Do you think Zomo will act differently now that he has wisdom?

AFTER READING

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

- What do you think of Zomo's tricks? Did he earn wisdom?
- What were some challenges Zomo faced while trying to gain wisdom?
- Did Sky God believe that Zomo would complete the three tasks?
- What important lesson Gerald McDermott want us to take away after reading?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE

- If you could wish for any attribute what would it be?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Share about a time when you had to earn something by accomplishing a task. What lesson did you learn?

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Conduct a picture walk and let each child find their favorite page and tell why.
- I wonder why the author, Gerald McDermott felt the need to write this story?
- How did Gerald McDermott make the illustrations seem to move on the page?
- What trait did Zomo have to help him solve the problem of gaining wisdom?
- Why you you think Gerald McDermott chose those three animals?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Retell the story with each child sharing what happened (using their own words not the ones on the page). Use descriptive language to show how each character felt.

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write three tasks to complete in order to gain a different attribute, e.g. humour, kindness. What lesson would they learn on the journey of completing these tasks.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Draw a picture of a new trickster animal using a similar design that Gerald McDermott used.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7.