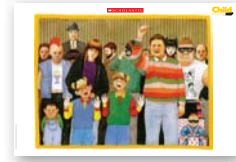


Zoo: Teachers' notes

Use these talking points to explore words and pictures in the poster 'Zoo' taken from the book of the same name by Children's Laureate Anthony Browne.



Introducing the image

Show the children the poster featuring the image from Zoo by Anthony Browne. Ask for the children's initial thoughts about the picture – what do they notice about the various characters?

If it hasn't already been alluded to, point out that many of the characters look like animals. Ask: *How has the illustrator shown this?* (Monkey hats, hairstyles, ears, eyes, and so on).

Say that the reason the illustrator might have portrayed people as animals was to suggest that sometimes we really are like animals – because of the way we look or act. Ask the children if there are times when they act a bit like animals. (For example, hyenas when they are laughing, lions when they're brave, monkeys when they're cheeky.)

Animal additions

Using their ideas from the discussion above, invite the children to draw a self portrait adding in subtle animal features in the same way that Anthony Browne does in Zoo. Encourage them to think of animal body parts (ears, nose, eyes, tail, and so on) as well as animal patterns and colours.

Brave like a lion

Ask the children to write a poem about how they act a bit like animals at different times. Discuss different animals and what personality characteristics they are known for (for example, lions are brave, dolphins are friendly, dogs are loyal). You could provide a writing frame for children such as:

When I feel brave, I am a
 When I feel frightened, I am a
 When I feel happy, I am a
 When I feel sad, I am a

Pets like people

Discuss with the children how animals are sometimes similar to people, too. Ask who has pets at home and invite the children to share with the rest of the class how their pets behave. Perhaps a pet dog is a best friend, or a pet cat a good listener? Maybe they have a parrot who chatters all day long? Ask children who don't have pets to suggest how other animals behave, for example the ducks in the park. Invite the children to write a short story about an ordinary day but from an animal's point of view, for example, a pet or an animal in a park or zoo.

Picture messages

Discuss with the children how Anthony Browne uses images to represent words and messages. For example, the image of the strong man on one t-shirt suggests the wearer is tough, while the egg image on another t-shirt could imply that the wearer is an 'egghead' (a clever person who studies very hard). Talk about the use of symbols and images on signs that provide information or instructions. Can the children think of any signs that use pictures rather than words? (For example, road signs, safety signs, toilet signs.)

Design a sign

Invite the children to design some signs for the school to show parents, teachers and visitors what type of school it is. For example, a simple smiley face could represent a happy school, a sign with fruit on could represent a healthy school or a sign with lots of people on could represent a friendly school. Signs could be hand drawn or painted, or the children could design them using an art program on the computer. The finished signs could then be laminated and displayed around the school.

Animals up close

Many of the people in the 'Zoo' poster have animal-like features. Look at the close-up images below of real-life animals. Work out what the animals are and then find the people who look like each of the animals in the poster image. Why not cut out the images below and draw what you think the rest of the animal looks like?



The jungle race

Read this animal poem in the playground or PE hall and invite children to respond by making suitable movements to represent each of the jungle animals.

Monkey, monkey, won't you follow me
Swing through the jungle – tree to tree
Elephant stomps and stamps along
Trumpet raised in elephant song
Toucan soars with wings to fly
A rainbow in the jungle sky
Snake moves smoothly, silent, slick
Don't get bitten, must be quick
Panther runs at lightning pace
First to win the jungle race.