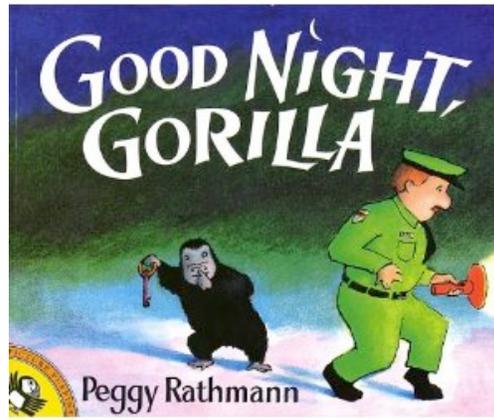


**Using picture books in English Language classes
3 - 6 year olds**

***Goodnight Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann**



Before reading this picture book

Children will have previously learned the names of zoo animals, especially gorilla. They should also know their colours in English.

Objectives: At the end of this lesson children should be able to sequence the animals in the zoo and join in with the text 'Goodnight ...' There are several pages with illustrations and no text. Children should be encouraged to discuss these pages, using their mother tongue or English, with recasting from you.

Materials needed for the lesson: Flashcards of the zoo animals the children know; Flashcards of a hyena and an armadillo; flashcards of different times of the day (morning, afternoon, night).

Pre Picture book storytelling activity:

1. Sing a welcome song that includes either good morning or good afternoon.
2. Ask the children to sit down and show them the three flashcards representing times of the day. Ask them if they know what to say, and praise any suggestions. Go through the different greetings and associate an action with each one: stretch as though getting up and say 'Good morning!'; rub your tummy, as though you are full after lunch and say 'Good afternoon'; yawn, and put your hand to your mouth and say 'Good night!' Play some miming games.
3. Show the book cover to the children and ask them what they can see. Ask them why they think the man has a torch. Praise their replies and elicit as much as you can from them, so they understand it is night time. Ask them what they would say to the gorilla if they saw him at night time, '*Goodnight Gorilla!*' explain that they have just said the title of the book!
4. Ask the children who they think the man is. If they are able to guess he is a zookeeper, praise them and then ask which animals he has to look after besides the gorilla. As they say the animal words, show them the flashcards they already know and place them on the wall / board.
5. Explain that while they are listening to the story they should see which of the animals they know appears in the story. May be there are some new ones too!

During picture book storytelling activity.

1. Ask the children why they think the gorilla has a key and what he is doing. Accept all their suggestions and begin the story.
2. Open the first page, and show the illustration to the children, pause and then ask the children what they think the gorilla is doing. Draw their attention to the keys and ask them if they can count how many there are. Point to the speech bubble and ask them what they think it says, then say in a gruff voice, 'Goodnight Gorilla'!
3. Turn the page and congratulate them for guessing correctly. The gorilla opened his cage! Accept any comments from the children about the gorilla's cage, recasting some of the words they may know in English. Can they see the mouse? Interact with the children about the next illustration, for example why is the gorilla hiding from the zookeeper, and how many keys does he have now?
4. Turn the page, elicit what they think the zookeeper is saying, and use your gruff voice again to read the text! Accept any comments from the children about the elephant, recasting some of the words they may know in English.
5. Continue through the zoo pages, saying goodnight to all the animals, counting the keys and commenting on the animals and their cages.
6. When you get to the full page spread showing the zookeeper entering his house, pause and react to the children's comments. Through the next section of the book there are no words, let the children look carefully at the illustrations and discuss them.
7. When you get to the black page, with goodnight speech bubbles, ask the children who they think says all the goodnights, they should reply with the animals names! Turn the page, don't say anything, let the children react. Is the zookeeper's wife surprised? Keep turning the following pages, allowing time for the children to look at the illustrations and discuss the events.
8. Finish the story, reading the wife's speech bubbles in a lady like voice! Draw the children's attention to the keys, how many are there? Which one's missing? Does the wife know the gorilla is there? Final page whisper 'Goodnight Gorilla' and reply with a little snore!
9. Close the book and ask the children if they enjoyed the story. They may say yes and ask you to read it again. However, before you do this, ask them to tell you which zoo animals appeared in the story. Use the flashcards to help them remember. Retell the story and continue to encourage children to join in as you tell the story and comment on the illustrations, using English when they can. They will begin to comment on the colour of the keys matching the cages for example and will continue noticing new things in the illustrations.

Post picture book storytelling activities.

1. **Sequencing the zoo animals:** Ask the children if they can remember the sequence of the animals in the zoo. Use the flashcards to help them. Place the animals in sequence for the children to see.
2. **A role-play:** Place the flashcards around the room, in sequence, and ask for volunteer children to stand under each image, as though in a cage. Choose a zookeeper to go around the zoo and say goodnight to the animals. As he does, the children should leave their cages follow him around in single file holding hands. When the zookeeper has finished they should all say, 'Goodnight zoo!'
3. **Animal masks:** Make some simple animal masks with the children, and a zookeeper badge. Also get a torch. Role-play the above using the props. If you wish you could even role-play the bedroom scene!