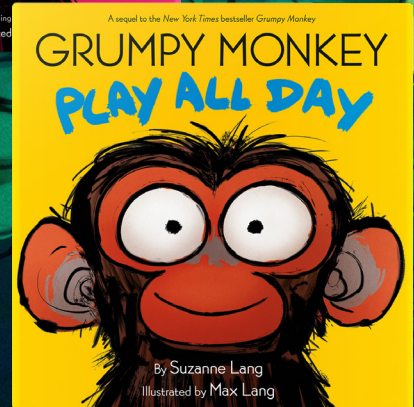
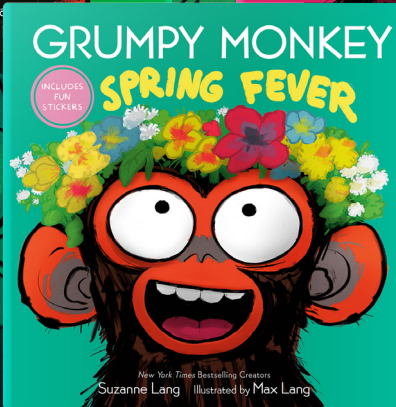
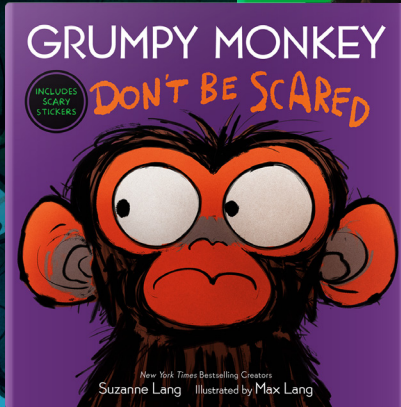
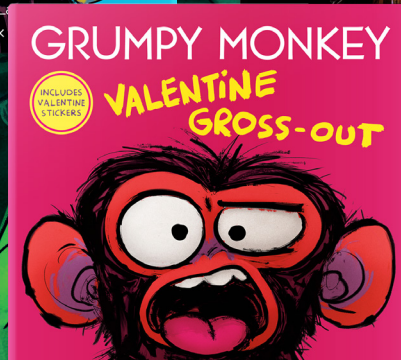
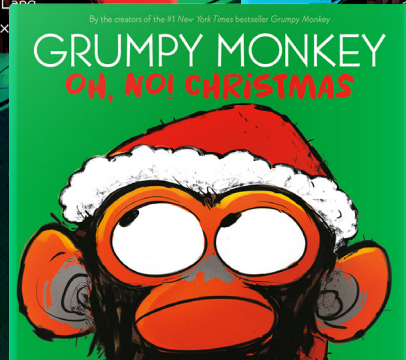
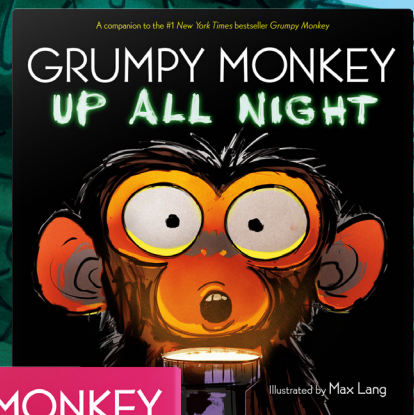
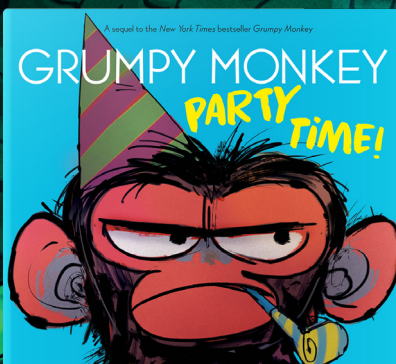
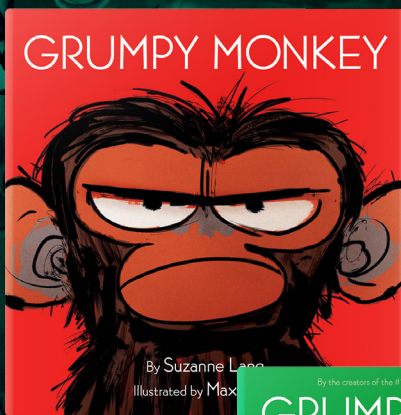
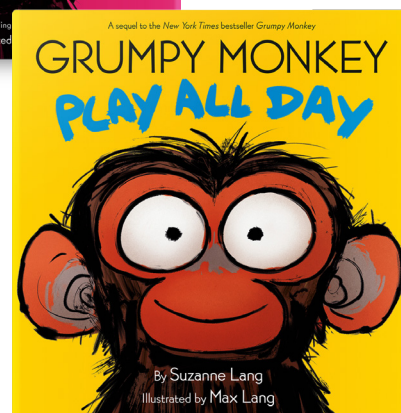
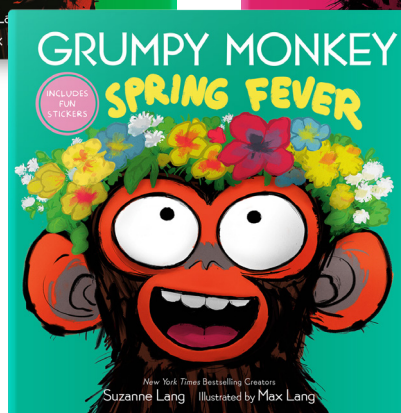
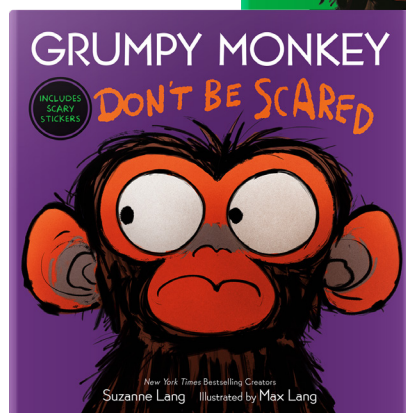
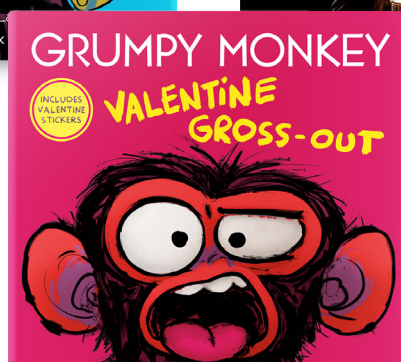
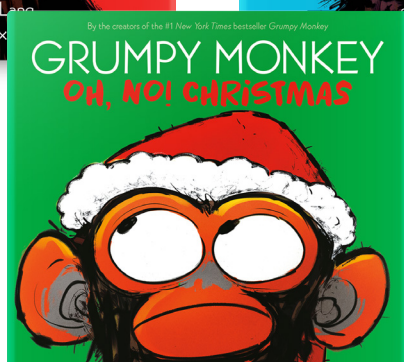
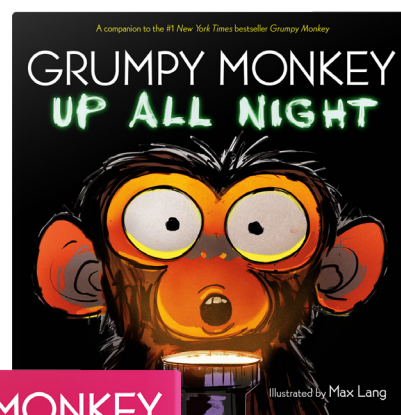
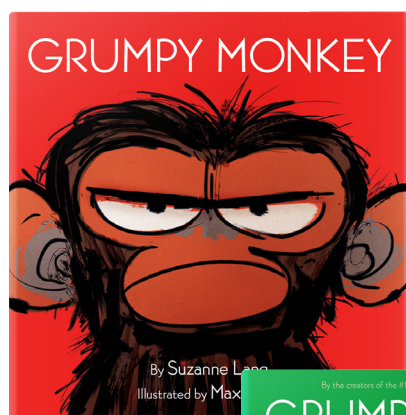


GRUMPY MONKEY

Picture Book Guide





About the Author



Suzanne Lang is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling Grumpy Monkey books as well as several other titles. When she's not writing books, Suzanne writes for animation. When

she's not doing that, she hangs out with her very funny kids, feeds her many pets, and tries (but usually fails) to take a nap!

Discover even more
Grumpy Monkey titles
and activities!

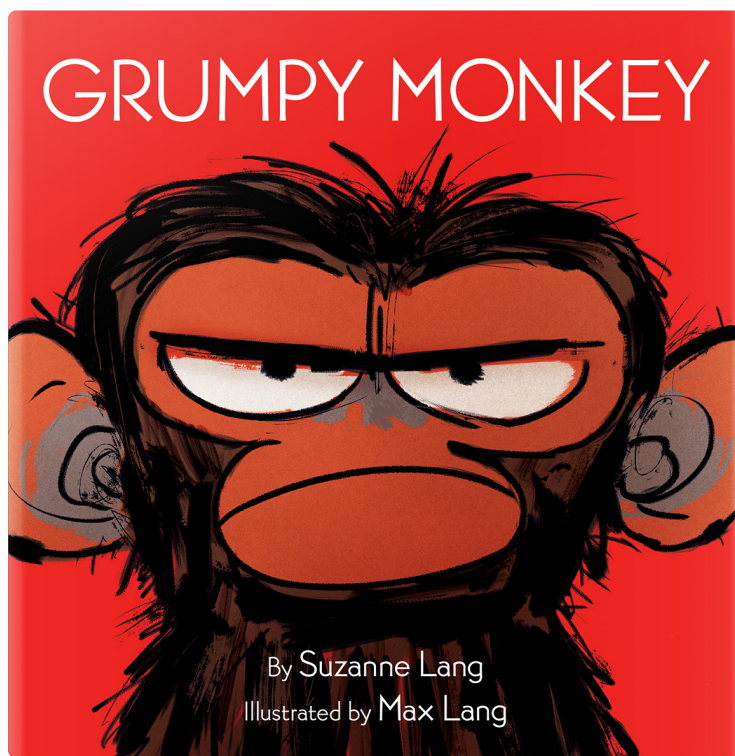


About the Illustrator



Max Lang has illustrated over twenty books including all the books in the Grumpy Monkey series. When he is not making books, he makes films. He has co-directed several animated films

including *The Snail and the Whale*, *Zog*, *Room on the Broom*, and *The Gruffalo*. He has received a BAFTA, two Emmys, two Oscar nominations, and many other honors for his film work. In his spare time, he tries to make his kids laugh with dad jokes, and when he inevitably fails, he takes his dogs for a walk.



Grumpy Monkey

Jim wakes up one day and discovers that he just doesn't feel right. All the other animals keep telling him that he is grumpy and trying to change his mood by suggesting he do activities like singing and swinging. Jim eventually realizes he *is* feeling grumpy and a little sorry for himself. Thankfully he runs into his friend Norman who respects Jim's feelings.



Grumpy Monkey teaches students that it's okay to feel their feelings and to share them with friends who may be able to empathize with them.

Discussion Prompts:

Why is it important for Jim to realize that he's feeling grumpy, and how does having a friend like Norman who understands his feelings help him feel better?

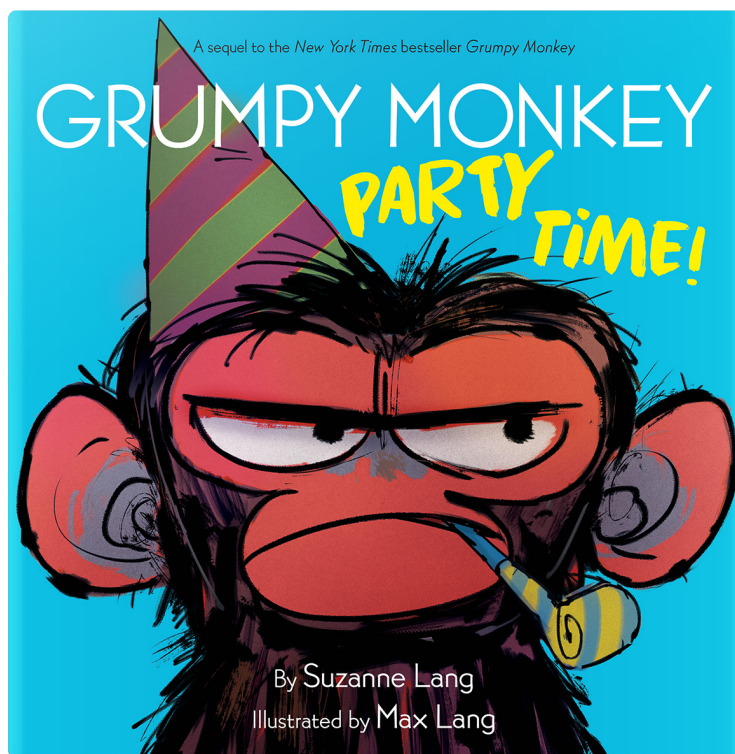
It's okay to feel grumpy sometimes! What matters is that we don't take our grumpiness out on our friends. Instead, we can talk about how we're feeling and let our friends help us. How do you deal with your feelings? Do you do a happy dance when you're excited, or maybe ask a friend for a hug when you feel sad?



Get Your Grumps Out!

Write a short list of things that
make you feel better when you are grumpy.





Grumpy Monkey: Party Time!

Porcupine's party is coming up, and Jim is distressed to hear there will be dancing. He doesn't know how to dance. The other animals are happy to teach him, and soon Jim can dance. At the party everyone is excited to dance with Jim. Only Jim isn't having any fun. Finally he erupts, letting everyone know that he doesn't like dancing. Much to his surprise he learns that some of the other animals don't like dancing either and that dancing isn't the only way to have fun at a party.



Grumpy Monkey: Party Time! teaches students that it's okay to say no when they feel uncomfortable and encourages them to voice their needs, which could empower others to do the same.

Discussion Prompts:

Before reading the book, take a moment to explore the concept of respect with the class. Ask students to think about a time in their lives when they felt uncomfortable at a party or at a play date—what happened and why did they feel uncomfortable? Read the book.

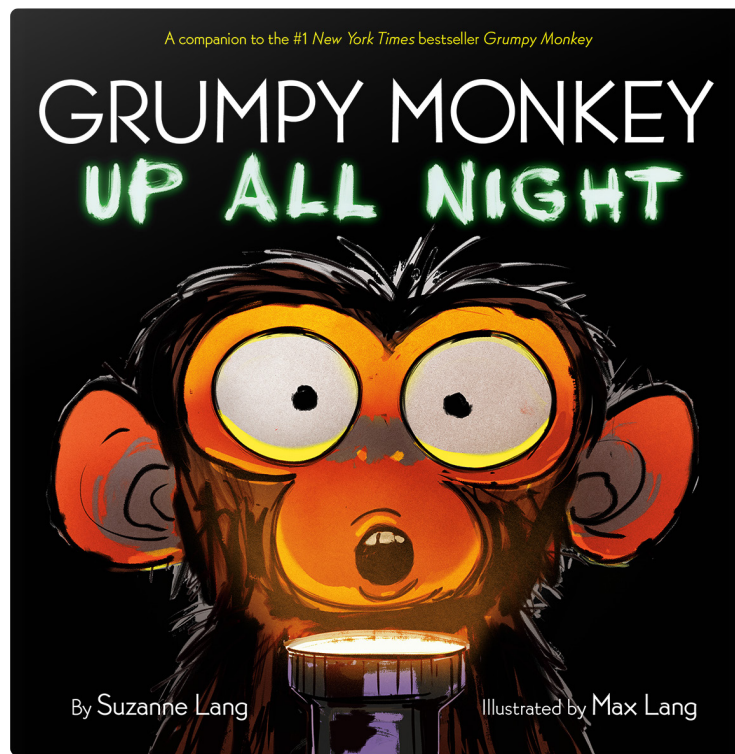
After you read the story, ask the class to consider whether it was fair for the other animals to assume that everyone enjoys dancing. How can we ensure that people feel comfortable voicing their needs? Discuss how to encourage people to speak up and how, when they are brave enough to do so, they might discover that they're not alone.



Party Planning

Divide the class into groups to plan an imaginary party that doesn't emphasize a main activity. Encourage students to come up with fun activities and games, reinforcing that there are many ways to enjoy a party even if you don't like specific activities and games.





Grumpy Monkey: Up All Night

Jim Panzee is eager for a family slumber party filled with fun activities and staying awake all night. However, Jim's excitement turns to frustration when his younger brother, Tim, shows up and seems determined to ruin Jim's fun. But when Tim needs his big brother, Jim is there for him and the two enjoy some late-night laughs.

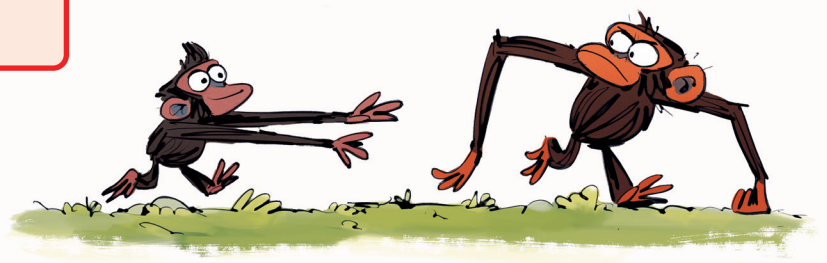


Grumpy Monkey: Up All Night teaches students how to self-manage their feelings when things don't go the way they want.

Discussion Prompts:

How does Jim's excitement at the beginning of the story change as the activities don't go the way he'd hoped, and what can we learn from his frustration?

Can you think of a time when you felt frustrated, like Jim, because things didn't go as planned? How did you handle that situation, and what strategies can we use to manage our feelings when faced with disappointment?



Emotion Exploration

Understanding Feelings Through Stories

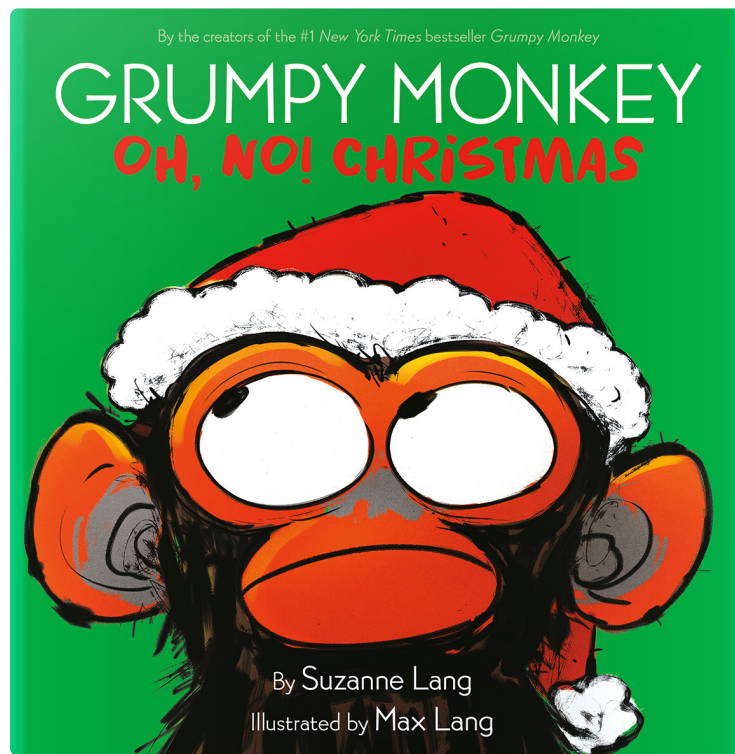
Create a storyboard where students can draw or write about key events from the book in order, which helps reinforce comprehension and narrative structure.

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a black border, intended for drawing or writing a key event from the book.

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Grumpy Monkey: Oh, No! Christmas

It's Christmas time in the jungle, and Jim just can't seem to get into the holiday spirit. When Jim eats a "festive" green banana that makes him feel sick, everything seems even worse. While all the other animals in the jungle are ready and eagerly awaiting Christmas, Jim can't shake the feeling that this time of year stinks. However, with the help of his good friend Norman, Jim discovers that focusing on the good things around him rather than his own problems is a reason to celebrate.

Discussion Prompts:

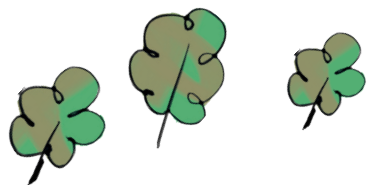
What are some specific things that make Jim feel unhappy during the Christmas season? How do those feelings compare to the excitement of the other animals in the jungle?

How does Norman help Jim change his perspective about the holiday? How can we focus on the good things in our lives when we're feeling down?



Grumpy Monkey: Oh, No! Christmas teaches students the importance of learning to look at the positive things around them.



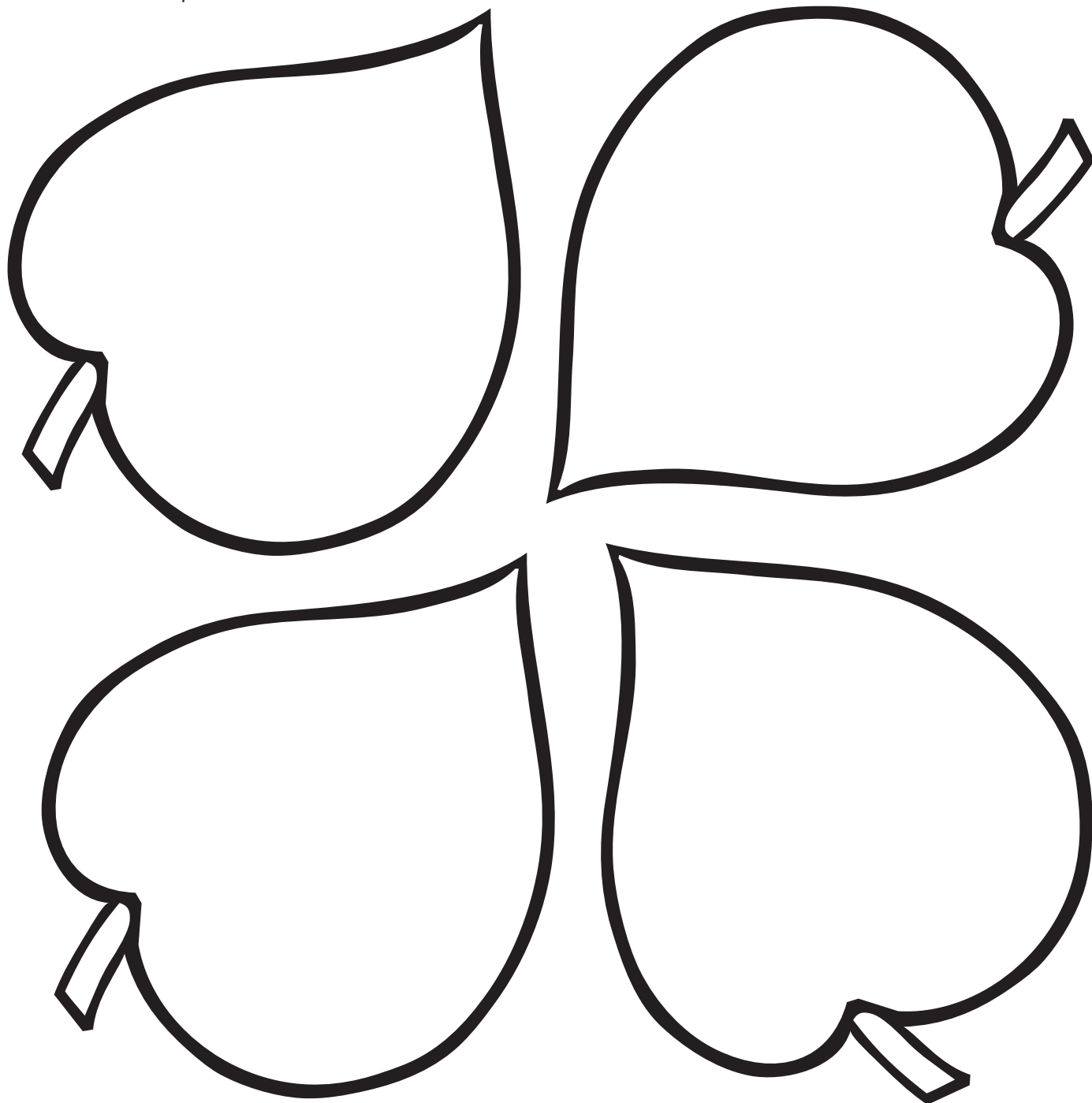


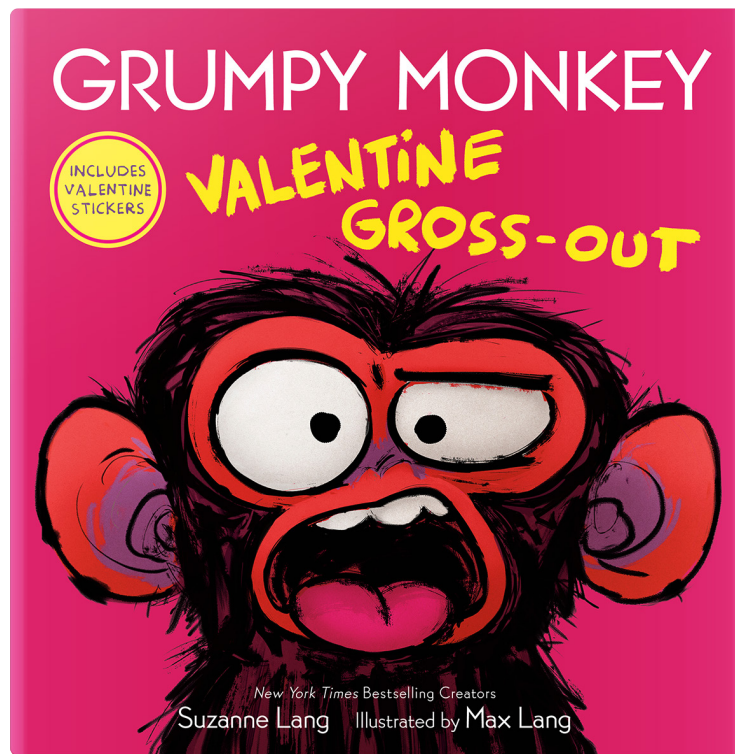
Leaf by Leaf

Cultivating a Gratitude Tree



Students will create a Gratitude Tree in the classroom to help them focus on positive aspects of their lives, similar to how Jim learns to see the good around him. Provide students with paper leaves on which they can write or draw things they are grateful for or about a positive experience they've had. As a class, decorate a large poster or bulletin board to resemble a tree. Each student will add their leaves throughout the week. Afterward, hold a class discussion about how practicing gratitude can help shift our perspectives when we feel down, just like Jim did with Norman's help.





Grumpy Monkey: Valentine Gross-Out

When Jim Panzee overhears Oxpecker cooing over her adoring boyfriend on Valentine's Day, he has just one thought: *Gross*. But Jim soon discovers that Valentine's Day isn't just about hearts and kisses. Jim learns that there are different types of valentines and many kinds of love, such as love for a parent or for friends.



Grumpy Monkey: Valentine Gross-Out teaches students that there are many kinds of love.

Discussion Prompts:

What are some different types of love that Jim discovers in the story, and how do they make him feel about Valentine's Day?

How can we show love and appreciation for our friends and family, just like Jim learns to do in the book?



An Appreciation Heart Project

Create special appreciation hearts to thank people in your community for their hard work and dedication. You could even plan a short walk around your school to deliver them to teachers, cafeteria workers, or people who work in the office. Just like Jim, you'll spread kindness through your artwork and words, helping to build a more caring community and becoming great neighbors and citizens!

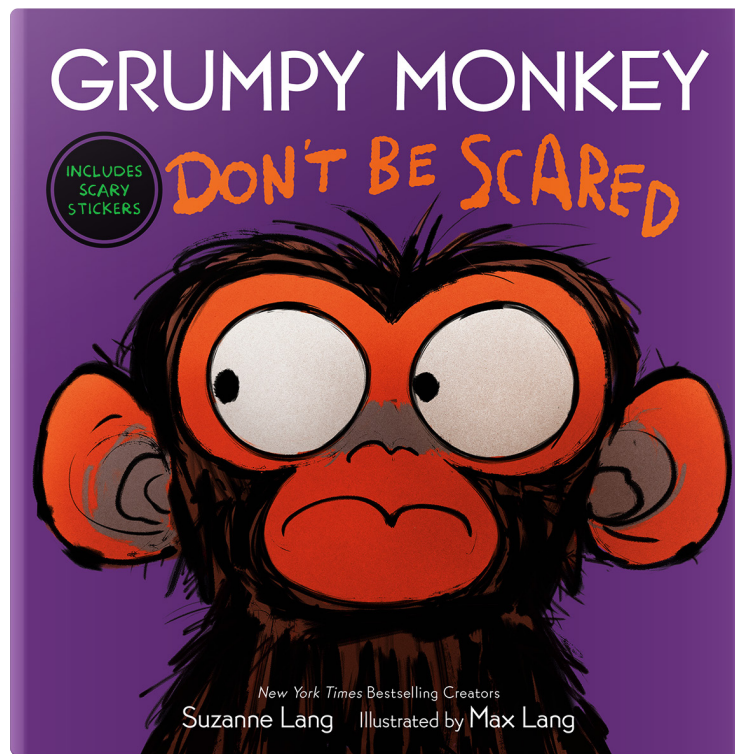


Appreciation Heart

Thank you for

Our community is lucky
to have you!





Grumpy Monkey: Don't Be Scared

On the creepiest night of the year, Jim Panzee and his jungle friends brave the dark to collect treats. The jungle looks and sounds different at night. What's that *knock-knock-knock* and that *HAHA HAHA HAHA*? And the smell? *PEE-YEW!* "Don't be scared," Porcupine tells Jim. But then two glowing eyes flash overhead and looking for treats is almost abandoned. Until it is revealed that the eyes belong to friendly Aye-Aye, who has yummy treats to share.

Discussion Prompts:

What specific sounds and smells do Jim and his friends encounter in the dark jungle, and how do these sensory details contribute to the overall atmosphere of the story?

When the animals encounter Aye-Aye, they are all startled. How do they react initially? How do they use their words to explain their feelings and their actions?



Grumpy Monkey: Don't Be Scared shows students that everyone feels afraid sometimes and that facing fears and overcoming challenges can lead to rewarding experiences.

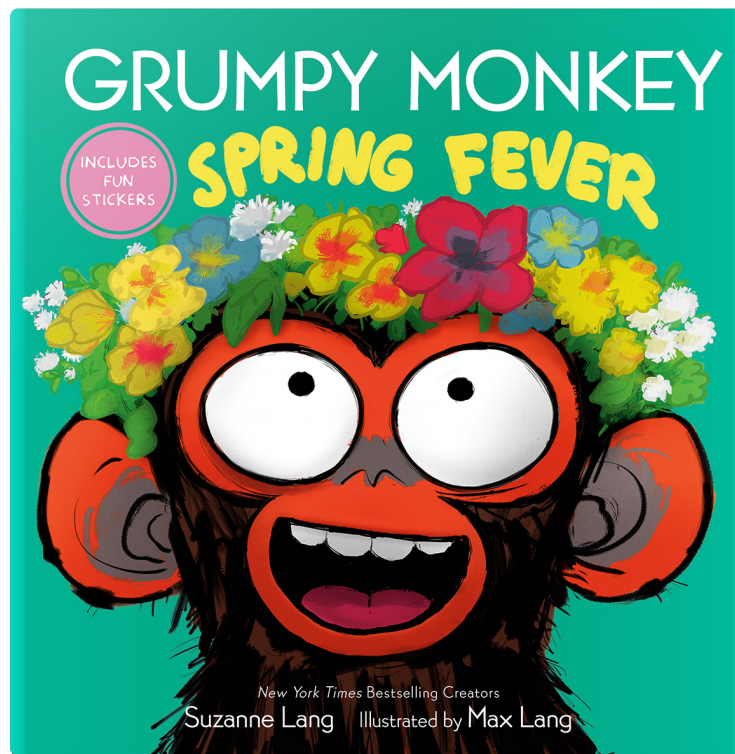




Creepy Cartography

Have students create an Eerie Jungle Map. They should draw a map of a jungle setting, complete with various eerie elements inspired by the book—like unusual sounds and glowing eyes. Afterward, students can share their maps with the class, describing the different features they've included and the stories behind them and why their spooky details would cause both fear and excitement! This fosters creativity and discussion about how to handle feeling scared.





Grumpy Monkey: Spring Fever

When Jim Panzee finds himself feeling energized and silly, Norman suggests he might have spring fever. Oxpecker tells Jim he needs to calm down, but Jim's attempts at quashing his energy only backfire. When Norman explains that having a lot of energy can be a good thing, Jim embraces his spring fever and enjoys doing spring things with the other animals.

Discussion Prompts:

Have you ever been told you have too much energy? What kind of things have you done in different situations when you have a lot of energy?

What are some of the different "cures" that the animals suggest for Jim's spring fever, and how do these reflect their personalities?



Grumpy Monkey: Spring Fever teaches students to embrace their natural energy and to look for positive outlets for it.

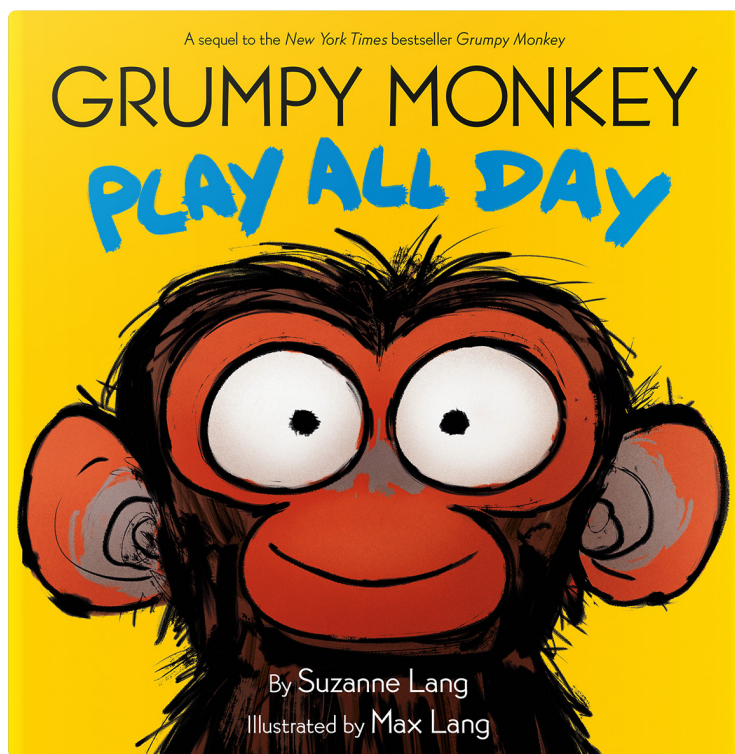


Emotional Palette

Color Your Feelings

Have students create a collage or drawing that represents different emotions Jim experiences throughout the story. Encourage them to use colors and images that show how they think Jim feels during each part of the book.





Grumpy Monkey: Play All Day

One fine morning, Jim Panzee wakes up and decides that all he's going to do is play all day. Whether it's tidying his branch, finding bananas for lunch, or even taking a bathroom break, Jim wiggles out of it. For him, nothing is more important than having fun. Jim is great at avoiding his responsibilities, but by the end of the day, he is dirty, itchy, and hungry. His best pal Norman patiently tells him, "Too much of anything can be too much."

Discussion Prompts:

What are some of the fun activities Jim Panzee does to avoid his responsibilities, and how do you think that affects his day?

What do you think Norman means when he says, "Too much of anything can be, well, too much"? How can that idea apply to our own lives?

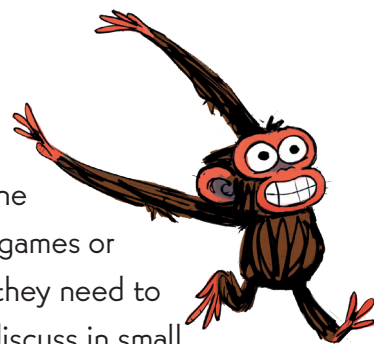


Grumpy Monkey: Play All Day teaches students that while play and fun are important, avoiding responsibilities can lead to negative consequences, and a balanced approach to life is essential for overall well-being.



Fun in Balance

Have students use the Balanced Day Chart to outline a typical day in their lives, dividing it into two sections: Fun Activities and Responsibilities. In the Fun Activities section, students can list activities they enjoy (like playing games or watching TV), and in the Responsibilities section, they should note tasks they need to do, such as homework or chores. After finishing their charts, students will discuss in small groups how they can find a good balance between fun and responsibilities, drawing parallels to Jim Panzee's experience in the story. To conclude, encourage students to reflect in writing about how balance is as important in their own lives as it is in Jim's.



Fun Activities	Responsibilities

*This guide was created with contributions by Karen Clement
an elementary school teacher for sixteen years in Washington, D.C.*



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