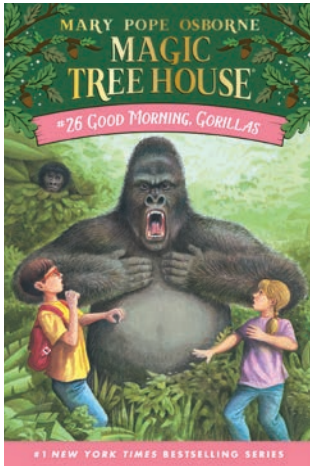


EDUCATORS' GUIDE

MAGIC TREE HOUSE®

Good Morning Gorillas



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ABOUT *Good Morning, Gorillas*

Jack and Annie are whisked off to the mountains of Africa. There they run into a huge mountain gorilla! At first they don't know whether they should shake hands or turn tail. But the ominous-looking creature turns out to be surprisingly gentle. Not only that, the gorilla may be able to help them learn their next bit of magic, which Morgan has challenged them to do.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Language of the Hands and the Heart

Annie's "monkey see, monkey do" games with Bu-bu, Ho-ho, and other gorilla friends demonstrate the natural talents these primates have for imitating what they see and communicating through gestures. When Jack tells Annie about a captive gorilla named Koko who was taught to communicate through sign language, she remembers the sign for "I love you" and teaches it to their gorilla friends. Using Internet or library resources, introduce students to the American Sign Language Alphabet. Have them practice making the letters and finger spelling "I love you" and other words and common phrases. Engage students in a finger-spelling bee in which they are given words of increasing difficulty to spell using sign language.

CURRICULUM: *Social Studies • Language Arts*

Sounds of the Rain Forest

At first, Jack is not very happy about the abundant rain that soaks him and everything around him in the rain forest. But by end of story, he understands that year round rain makes it possible for many of the animals and plants to thrive there. With a cardboard mailing tube, plain poster paper, and a selection of beans, uncooked rice, popcorn, or gravel, students can enjoy the same rain sounds that Jack and Annie hear by making a rain stick. With one end of the tube closed with tape or stopper, have students pour in selection of beans, etc. until tube is three-quarters full. After other end of tube is closed with stopper or tape, students can wrap the tube in poster paper and decorate it with an original rain-forest scene. When rain sticks are complete, students can slowly turn them from end to end to simulate the sounds of the rainforest.

CURRICULUM: *Art • Science*

Teaching ideas by Rosemary B. Stimola, Ph.D., former professor of children's literature
at City University of New York.