



Anthology 1: Animals & More

<p><i>If a Hippopotamus Shows Up at Your Door</i> Story and Illustrations by Robin Spowart</p>	<p>A playful, circular story of a hippopotamus who arrives at your house and is thirsty, then hungry, then dirty, then sleepy and, once he is in bed, thirsty all over again. . .</p>
<p><i>Big Cats and Bootsy</i> Story and Illustrations by Valeri Gorbachev</p>	<p>Granny takes Ginny, a little girl, and Jeff, her little brother, to the zoo. Granny calls the leopard, the tiger, and the lion “big cats.” Jeff thinks that these big cats indeed look like their little cat Bootsy, but Ginny does not agree. She finds her cat not only physically distinct, but also much more special than the scary animals at the zoo. A simple yet interesting story to launch a discussion of differences of opinion as well as different ways of perceiving reality.</p>
<p><i>Animal Poems</i> Anonymous Illustrated by Carla Cruttenden <i>The Crocodile</i> <i>Down in the Grass</i> <i>Elephants</i></p>	<p>The three short animal poems in this collection warn against the dangers of the deceptive crocodile and the quick snake, respectively. The last poem takes a humorous look at an elephant’s physical characteristics ending with, “But good gracious, what a nose!”</p>
<p><i>Precocious Piggy</i> by Thomas Hood Illustrated by Thomas Hood’s son</p>	<p>The question “Where are you going to, you little pig?” is repeatedly answered in this poem through verses that end with words that rhyme with <i>pig</i>. For example, the skillful piggy rides in a <i>gig</i>, and dances a fine <i>jig</i>. At the end, Piggy has grown so big that the butcher eagerly comes to get him.</p>
<p>Early Primary Library 1</p>	
<p><i>The Little-Like-Me Baby</i> by Phillis Gershator Illustrated by Ponder Goembel</p>	<p>A baby animal is born and everybody wonders who it looks like. Each animal thinks the animal looks like him or her. The puzzle is finally resolved when the baby grows up to resemble his own parents. It turns out to be a platypus, a unique Australian animal with a duck bill and webbed feet. Since the platypus is fully protected in Australia, this tale lends itself to a discussion about the preservation of animals and their natural habitats.</p>
<p><i>What Can Baby Hummingbirds Do?</i> by Ruth J. Luhrs Illustrated by Julie Zickefoose</p>	<p>Newly hatched hummingbirds are as small as bees and sleep in a nest the size of a walnut shell. This informational piece describes how baby hummingbirds learn to take food from their mother, grow feathers, and beat their wings so they can eventually fly away from their nests.</p>
<p><i>The River Otter</i> by Janeen R. Adil Illustrated by Delana Bettoli</p>	<p>This nonfiction story describes the river otter: where it lives, what it eats, and how it plays and sleeps. Readers will enjoy the entertaining description of this playful animal, as well as the charming illustrations that accompany the text.</p>
<p><i>Goose on Guard</i> by Eileen Ross Illustrated by Julie Zickefoose</p>	<p>This short story narrates the effort, attention, and hard work of mother and father goose as they build their nest, lay eggs, and care for their soon-to-be-hatched goslings. Within the context of a suspenseful plot, readers will not only learn about geese, they will also come to appreciate the effort required by adult geese to see that their goslings are safely hatched.</p>



<p><i>The Snowflake</i> by Walter de la Mare Illustrated by J. Medeiros and Laura Levy</p>	<p>This poem describes the fragile existence and beauty of a snowflake from the snowflake's perspective.</p>
<p><i>White Fields</i> by James Stephens Illustrated by Basilio Amaro</p>	<p>In this lyrical poem, Stephens evokes the thrill of walking through white fields of snow.</p>
<p>Intermediate Library 2</p>	
<p><i>Song Dingbo and the Hungry Ghost</i> A Story from China Retold by Eric A. Kimmel Illustrated by Ju-Hong Chen</p>	<p>A Chinese boy named Song Dingbo is on his way to the town of Wan when he runs into a hungry ghost that tries to eat him. Despite being terribly frightened, Song Dingbo manages to trick the ghost. After persuading the ghost to become a horse, Song Dingbo rides all the way to Wan. After they arrive, Song Dingbo sells the horse for money, thereby tricking the ghost and profiting from the encounter. People still remember Song Dingbo's cleverness today and recite this refrain: "Song Dingbo did better than most. He made money from a ghost."</p>
<p><i>The Hare Who Would Not Be King</i> A Kenyan Folk Tale Retold by Tish Farrell Illustrated by Brian Lies</p>	<p>On the African plains the animals elect Kali the lion as their king, hoping he will be wise and protect them. Only Hare is smart enough to predict Kali's eventual cruelty, but no one listens to him. Every night Kali requests an animal for his supper and happily enjoys his meal, until it's Hare's turn. Hare finds a way to defeat the lion and becomes a hero. Smart and strategic, Hare personifies the brave and honest critical thinker in a society ruled with cruelty. A challenging story that offers an entry into a discussion about hierarchical roles and social responsibilities.</p>
<p><i>The Bravest Man in the World</i> A Chinese Folk Tale Retold by Bajee Tam and Marilyn Bolchunos Illustrated by Chih-Wei Chang</p>	<p>This Chinese folktale follows the well-known plot of a king who tries to find the perfect husband for his adored daughter. In this version, the king sets out to find the bravest man in the world. To do so, the king devises a contest in which the man who can swim across a swift river, which is also the home of a fierce crocodile, will be the groom. On the day of the contest nothing happens at first. Then a man finds himself in the river and begins to swim fast until he reaches the opposite shore. Consequently he wins the hand of the princess. But was the man really brave? This question invites further discussion once students read the unexpected ending of this tale.</p>
<p><i>The Story of William Tell</i> Retold by James Baldwin Illustrated by Basilio Amaro</p>	<p>This short version of the famous story of William Tell highlights not only the healthy insubordination and bravery of this mythical character against the Swiss tyrant Gessler, but also the hero's remarkable skills with a bow and arrow. Because of his disobedience to an absurd rule set by the tyrant, William Tell is forced to shoot an apple placed on top of his son's head with his bow and arrow. The hope of the cruel tyrant is for Tell to harm his boy. But Tell's remarkable skills and his son's trust in his father result in a successful shot. Following his triumph, Tell defies Gessler once again. By discussing the characters' motives, students can gain insight into issues of justice and injustice, and the power of love and faith.</p>



<p><i>The Old Man of Blackheath</i> Anonymous Illustrated by Basilio Amaro</p>	<p>An old man sits on his set of false teeth. Can you guess what happens? A humorous poem that can inspire students' own comic creations.</p>
<p><i>The Young Lady of Niger</i> Anonymous Illustrated by J. Medeiros</p>	<p>A lady decides to ride a tiger. When they return from the ride, the tiger wears a big smile. But where has the lady gone? A very short but powerful poem.</p>