

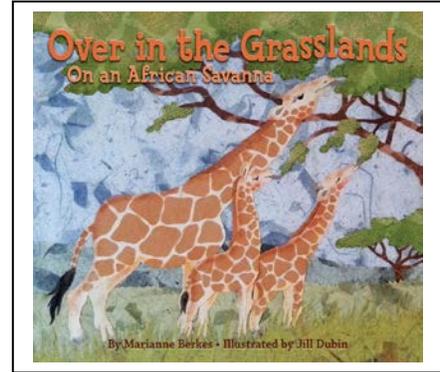
Grassland Animal Descriptions

Introduction

In the book, *Over in the Grasslands*, children are introduced to baby animals that live on the African savanna. In this activity, children identify the adjectives the author has used to describe each animal, such as “friendly” zebra. (Grades PreK-2)

Materials

- The book *Over in the Grasslands: on an African Savanna*
- Copies of bookmarks, a free download www.dawnpub.com/activity



Procedure

1. Teacher Prep: Print out enough sets of bookmarks so that each student has one.
2. Read the book up to the page with the map of Africa. Pass out a bookmark to each child.
3. Ask children, "Can you remember the word the author used to describe the animal that's shown on your bookmark?"
4. Go back to the beginning of the book and read only the first verse on each page, leaving out the adjective out. For example: "Over in the Grasslands where they really can run, lived a ____ mother zebra, and her little zebra one."
5. Instruct children that when they hear the name of the animal on their bookmark, they should hold up their bookmark.
6. Ask students holding the bookmarks to say the word (adjective) that the author used to describe the animal. If they don't remember, ask others in the class.
7. Ask children what reasons the author might have had in choosing the words she did. For example, "Why do you think the author used the word 'friendly' for the zebra?" Ask this question for all of the adjectives: tall, huge, hungry, proud, agile, pretty, busy, clever, cunning.

Variation: Older children may list one or more synonyms for each of the descriptive words. For example: friendly=amicable; tall=long or high; hungry=ravenous; huge=enormous.

Standards Alignment

Common Core ELA (K-2)
Speaking and Listening
Comprehension and Collaboration: K.2,
1.2, 2.2