

by Kristen Buhler

Cast of Characters

Mr. Jolliff—2nd grade teacher
Ms. Andrews—Adult group leader
Bryan—2nd grader
Heather—2nd grader
Jonathan—2nd grader
Mariko—2nd grader

Setting: Mr. Jolliff's 2nd grade class is on a field trip at the zoo to learn about different animals and practice new science vocabulary words.

Scene 1: Early in the day at the entrance to the zoo.

Mr. Jolliff: All right class, settle down. I know you're excited about our trip to the zoo today, but I cannot hand out your tickets and scavenger hunt lists until you quiet down. Ms. Andrews, would you please help me?

(Ms. Andrews and Mr. Jolliff
hand out the tickets and scavenger hunt
worksheets.)

Bryan: Roar! I can't wait to see the lions.

Heather: I want to see the penguins first.

Bryan: No! They smell!

Jonathan: Where's the bathroom?

Mr. Jolliff: Now remember class, you are
on the lookout for as many new science vocabulary
words as you can find. The words to look for are on your
scavenger hunt handout. When you find a science
word from the list in an animal's description,
write down the name of the animal next to the word.
The group that finds the most gets a special
prize when we meet up at lunch!

Mariko: I hope my group wins!

Bryan: I want my group to win!

Ms. Andrews: Time to split up into the groups that
Mr. Jolliff read on the bus. Bryan,
Heather, and Jonathan, you're with me.

Bryan, Heather, and Jonathan: Yay!

Mr. Jolliff: OK people, let's meet at the
elephant exhibit at noon for lunch. Have a
great time, learn new words, make new friends,
listen to your group leader, and *stay together!*

(Mr. Jolliff leaves with his group.

Ms. Andrews and her group remain.)

Ms. Andrews: Well, where should we go first?

Bryan: Lions!

Heather: Penguins!

Jonathan: Bathroom!

Ms. Andrews: Bathroom it is.

(All exit stage left.)

Scene 2: Later that morning at the lion exhibit with Ms. Andrews' group.

Bryan: Look at how big the lion is! I just heard him roar! Rrrrrr! (Bryan roars back to the lion.)

Ms. Andrews: It says here that a male lion's roar can be heard up to 5 miles away.

Bryan: I wish I could be heard that far away.

Heather: Believe me, you can.

Jonathan: Listen to what's on this sign. (reads slowly) Lions usually live in a group or pride. There are around 15 lions in a pride with no more than two males. The female lions, called lionesses, do most of the hunting. The males protect the pride's territory.

What's a territory?

Ms. Andrews: A territory is the area where the lions live and hunt.

Bryan: Aha! That word is on our scavenger hunt! So is pride!

Heather: The male lion's long hair around his neck is *so* pretty!

Bryan: That's called a mane.

Heather: Like, Main Street, where I live?

Ms. Andrews: No, this kind of mane is spelled m-a-n-e. Main Street is spelled m-a-i-n.

Heather: But they sound the same!

Ms. Andrews: That's because they are homophones. Words that sound the same but are spelled differently are called homophones.

Heather: Huh. Well, I'm ready to go see the penguins now. At least there is only one way to spell penguin.

(All exit stage right.)

Scene 3: Later at the penguin exhibit with Ms. Andrews' group.

Bryan: Brrr! It's so cold and smelly in

here! I *knew* it would be.

Ms. Andrews: It's cold because that is what the weather is like in Antarctica where these emperor penguins are from. Emperor penguins are the largest type of penguins. Look, that one is about 4 feet tall!

Heather: Look at them sliding into the water from the ice! Their habitat looks like an icy waterslide park!

Jonathan: What's a habitat?

Heather: I don't know. I just read it on the sign. Oh, look! It's one of our scavenger hunt words.

Ms. Andrews: (reads aloud) A habitat is the place that is natural for the life and growth of an animal.

Bryan: Wow! Did you know that at sea, emperor penguins can dive 1,850 feet deep? That's deeper than any other bird! And, they can stay under water for more than 20 minutes!

Jonathan: I can't hold my breath for even one minute.

Heather: They move through the water like torpedoes! They are so fast.

Bryan: What do emperor penguins eat?

Jonathan: This sign says they eat fish
and squid.

Bryan: That must be why it smells in here.

Heather: What is a predator of an emperor
penguin?

Jonathan: The sign said that seals, killer
whales, and walruses eat emperor penguins.

Bryan: Where should we go next? We only have 20
minutes until we have to meet everyone for lunch.

Let's find another scavenger hunt word.

(looks at the list) Where could we find the
definition for the word echolocation?

Jonathan: I know! The bats! To the bat cave!
(All exit stage left.)

Scene 4: Just before lunch at the bat cave with
Ms. Andrews' group.

Heather: Talk about smelly! This place stinks!
What is all the white stuff on the walls and
floor?

Bryan: This sign says it is called guano.
It's a fancy word for bat droppings.

Heather: Droppings?

Jonathan: A fancy word for poop.

Heather: *Eww.*

Jonathan: Here it is! (reads slowly)

Echolocating animals make calls out to the environment. They listen to the echoes of those calls that return from objects near them. They use these echoes to locate and identify the objects.

Echolocation is used for navigation and to find food in various environments.

Bryan: My grandma says she is "blind as a bat" when she doesn't have her glasses on. Are bats really blind?

Ms. Andrews: Because bats are nocturnal, and have tiny eyes, people thought they were blind for a long time. It turns out that bats aren't really blind, but because they hunt at night, echolocation helps them find food better than trying to see their prey at night.

Heather: That's so cool! Hey, nocturnal and environment are also on our list. What do they mean?

Jonathan: Nocturnal means they sleep during the day and go hunt at night. Environment is the area and climate where you live.

Heather: I'm glad I'm not nocturnal.

Ms. Andrews: Well kids, it's time to find the

elephants!

Bryan: Look at how many words we found!

Maybe we'll win the prize!

(All exit stage right.)

Scene 5: Noon of that day with Mr. Jolliff's class in their groups.

Mr. Jolliff: Well students, how did you do?

Raise your hands if you got more than five vocabulary words.

(Mariko's group and Bryan's group raise their hands.)

Mr. Jolliff: Who got more than seven words?

(Mariko's group and Bryan's group raise their hands.)

Mr. Jolliff: More than nine words?

(Mariko's group and Bryan's group raise their hands.)

Mr. Jolliff: Wow! How many did your group get, Mariko?

Mariko: 10.

Mr. Jolliff: How many did your group get, Bryan?

Bryan: 11.

Mr. Jolliff: Congratulations,
Bryan, Heather, Jonathan, and Ms.
Andrews! You win the prize ... an elephant
ear!

Heather: *Eww.*

Mr. Jolliff: No, not a *rea*/elephant
ear, the yummy dessert kind with cinnamon and
sugar.

Heather, Bryan, Jonathan, and Ms. Andrews:
Yay!