

Pre-K Essential Literature

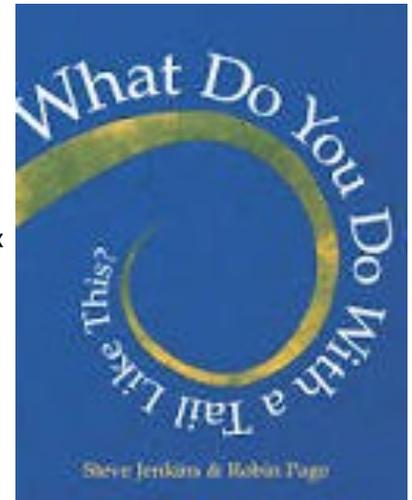
What do You Do With a Tail Like This?

by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page

- Talk about gestures you can do with your eyes, tail head, and mouth.
- Play a guessing game where only the tail is shown and the children match the tail to animal body
- Talk about how the animals would feel if you could touch them.
- Make a list of things you can do with your arms and legs
- Act out other ways we can use our feet
- Notice that the story asks “What do you do...” Why is that
- Match the animals’ feet and beak to the correct animal..
- Play cd with animal sounds. Have the children guess the animal sound
- Make a picture of animals with long tails and short tails.
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Tails in Action- Math

- Measurement allows children to learn how long things are and how to use various objects to measure. Divide children into groups 5 and give each group a “tail”. Next give the children a set of 10 unifix cubes and explain how to use these to measure. Have the children use their cubes to measure their “tails” in order to tell how long it is.
- Give the children pictures of animals from the story. Have them to sort the animals by sizes; placing small animals together and big\large animals together.



What do you do with a ? Like this? Dramatic Play

- After reading the story have the children pick an animal from the story. Next have them draw the front of their animal on one sheet of paper then draw the tail.
- Next have the children to play a guessing game with a friend, only showing the tail to see if they can guess the animal.

Do Animals Have Feelings? (SEL)

- We all have feelings and respond to each in a different way. Yet how do animals respond to emotions and feelings? Talk to the children about the different ways animals express their feelings. Compare them to the way we as humans express ours.
- In *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?*, the author talks about the elephants’ expression with its nose. Talk to the children about different emotions that the elephant has and how they express their feelings.

What Does This Do? (Science)

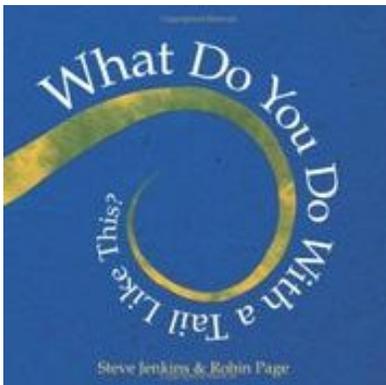
Animals use their body parts differently than humans. Name body parts and discuss what they do. Compare our uses of our parts with animals and the way they use each part.

Looking beyond the cover: What Do You With a Tail Like This?

About the Author

Steve Jenkins is the Acclaimed author and illustrator of numerous non fiction books for young readers, including *Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest*, winner of the 1999 Boston Globe– Horn Book Award for nonfiction, and the Caldecott Honor book with Robin Page, *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* In 2003 Steve was the honored recipient of the Washington Post Children’s Book Guild Award, presented to an author for contributions through a body of work to children’s nonfiction literature . His book *Life on Earth: The Story of Evolution* received several starred review and was a School Library Journal Best Book of the Year 2002, a Booklist Editor’s Choice 2002, and a 2003 Orbis Pictus Recommended Book.

Know for his meticulous cut– paper collages, Steve credits his children as a constant source of inspiration for his books. Steve has collaborated with his wife, Robin Page, on several books *Animals in Flight*, *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?*



More Interactive Read Alouds

Interactive read alouds are amazing for emerging, reluctant and non-readers. The music, call and response, repetition, simplicity and other techniques empower children to read these books even before they can really read. They are outstanding for story time.

For close reading, ask children to discuss what is happening to the tails? Do tails say a lot about the animal and how they move?

Here’s a list of some of our favorite interactive read alouds:

Jump, Frog, Jump! By Robert Kalan

Yo! Yes? By Chris Raschka

Down by the Cool of the Pool by Tony Mitton

Go Away Big Green Monster by Ed Emberley

Press Here by Herve Tullet

Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock by Eric Kimmell

Check it out!

Like *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* Here are some other books by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page to check out at Nashville Public Library:

The Top of the World
What Do you Do When Something Wants to Eat You
Actual Size

