Giraffes Can't Dance: Read Aloud, Think Aloud

FISCHOFF NATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC ASSOCIATION

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Questions About the Cover and Predictions Before Read Aloud [show cover]

- What do you notice about the cover?
- How do you think the animals on the cover are feeling?
- What clues does the title give you?
- What do you predict will happen in this story?
- Open to the two title pages. What animals do you see there? What are they doing? How does what they are doing relate to the title of the book?

Comprehension Questions During the Read Aloud

- Describe Gerald. What does he look like? What is he good at? What is he not good at?
- Where do you think this story takes place?
- What event is about to happen?
- What do the animals think about this event? What does Gerald feel about this event? Why do you think he feels this way?
- Describe the animals participating in Jungle Dance and their dances.
- Does Gerald decide to dance?
- What do the other animals think about Gerald's dancing?
- What does it mean when it says that Gerald "froze up"?
- Does Gerald stay at the dance and join in the fun?
- Where does he go? Who does Gerald meet?
- What does Cricket ask Gerald to listen to? What does Gerald hear?
- How does Gerald respond to Cricket playing the violin? How are these movements different than the dance moves the other animals were doing?
- How does Gerald feel when he is moving to the music like this?
- What do the other animals think about Gerald's new dance moves?
- Why is it a "miracle" that he can now dance?
- How did Gerald learn to dance like that?

Inference Questions During the Read Aloud

- Look at the cover of the book. The title is "Giraffes Can't Dance". What do you think the giraffe is doing on the cover of the book? Does this give you a clue as to what might happen in this book?
- Look at the first picture after the title pages. How does Gerald look in this picture? What words describe what Gerald looks like – his neck, legs and knees?
- How do the pictures in the book add to the story?
- What does it mean to have your knees "buckle"?

Inference Questions During the Read Aloud - continued

- When Gerald arrives at the dance does he look excited to be there? What about all the other animals, do they look excited to be there?
- Do the main dancers look like they are good dancers?
- Look at how all the animals are sitting when Gerald tries to dance. Why does Gerald need to be brave?
- How do the other animals react to Gerald when he goes to dance?
- The author says that all "sneered" at Gerald – what does that look like in the picture?
- The author says that Gerald "crept off from the dance floor." Describe what Gerald looked like when he crept off.
- What makes Gerald not feel lonely anymore?
- What do Gerald's dance moves look like? How are these different than the waltz, rock-n-roll, tango, cha-cha and reel?
- How do the pictures show what Gerald is feeling?
- How do you think the other animals are feeling? Are there any words that describe the feeling their faces are showing?

Think Aloud Questions to Make Connections After the Read Aloud

- What is the big problem in this story?
- Describe the animals who are dancing. What type of dance moves are they doing?
- Are there any dances you like to do?
- Do you consider yourself a good dancer?
- Are there any words in the story that describe why Gerald thinks he is a bad dancer?
- Are there any pictures in the story that describe how Gerald is feeling when he tries to dance?
- What illustrations help you know what the other character think of Gerald?
- Have you ever felt like you couldn't do something as well as everyone else?
- What does it mean to be weird?
- Has anyone ever commented on how you did something in a teasing way? How did this make you feel?
- Have you ever heard someone comment on how another classmate did something in a teasing way? Did you notice how that person reacted or felt when they heard this comment? Did you laugh or say anything when you heard this?
- When you are stressed or nervous, does your body ever react in a certain way? Have you ever felt like you "froze up"? What did you do?
- Have you ever felt really alone even in the midst of a crowd of people?
- Do you worry about what people think about you? Has there ever been something you wanted to do, but didn't because you were afraid someone might make fun of you?
- Has there been someone who has encouraged you to do something you didn't think you could do? How did they help you realize you could actually do it? How did you feel once you were able to do it?
- How is Gerald different at the end of the story then at the beginning? How are the other animals different at the end of the story then at the beginning?
- What is the lesson in this story?