

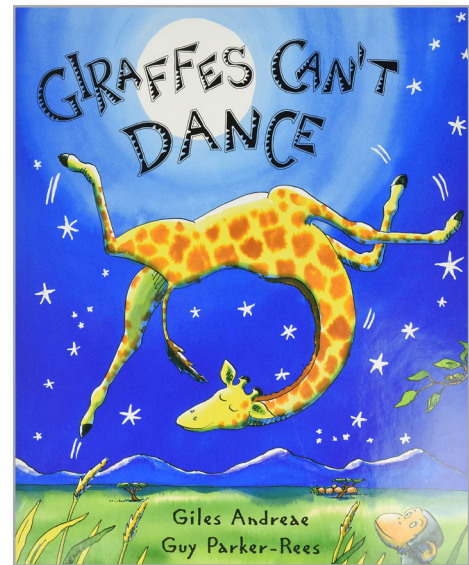


Giraffes Can't Dance

by Giles Andreae
Illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees

Before We Read: Introduce the Book

- Suggested scripted text for readers is indicated in italics with the lesson. Feel free to adapt as you wish.
- The **Now We Read** and **After We Read** sections include suggested instructions in brackets for readers.
 - *This book has many great sounds, pictures, and ideas. It also rhymes. It has sounds that rhyme such as “trees” and “knees.”*
 - *But ... there is also something tricky in this book, something that can make people feel bad. Listen and see whether you notice what it is. (Don't tell yet. We will talk about it at the end or later in the story.)*
 - *When you think you hear the part that can make people or animals feel bad, be “Sneaky Quiet.” Put one finger on your nose. [Show children what you are asking them to do.] Stay very still. When I see lots of fingers on noses, I'll stop reading, and we can talk about what we notice.*



Now We Read: Read the Book

As you read, watch for fingers on noses to see whether children can spot the “bullying” portion of the story. Remember that they may not use the term “bullying,” and may talk about a character being mean, or not nice.

After We Read: Talk about the Book

- *What happened to Giraffe when he danced?*
- *How do you think he felt?*
- *How did you feel when the animals laughed at Giraffe? Why?*
- *What did Giraffe do about this problem?*

[Prompt with the following questions, if necessary.]

- *Did he take a chance? Did he learn something new? Did he give up? Did it take some courage to solve his problem?*
- *What do we call it when people or animals or book characters act like this?*

[You may want to ask children if they have had an experience when they were trying to do something, and were not good at it, and others laughed. Give a moment for children to share. Explain that there is good laughing, but that some kinds of laughing hurt peoples' feelings.]

- *Did Giraffe give up when he danced his way and the other animals laughed?*
- *What did you think about Giraffe's last dance?*

Optional Activities

- Invite children to draw pictures their own special ways of dancing. Have them take turns sharing this art.
- Children may also enjoy sharing their own special dances with the group. Remind children to always be respectful of each dancer as he or she performs.