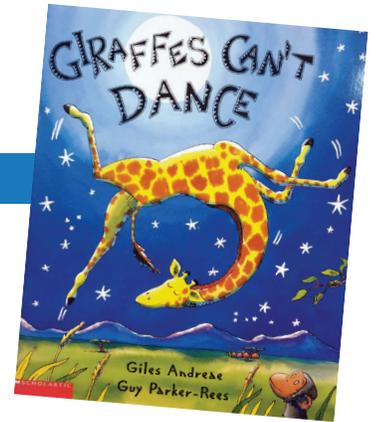


Create Your Own Musical Shaker

Grades K-2



BOOK SUMMARY

Gerald the giraffe longs to go to the great Jungle Dance, but how can he join in when he doesn't know how to tango or two-step? *Giraffes Can't Dance* is a touching tale of Gerald the giraffe, who wants nothing more than to dance. With crooked knees and thin legs, it's harder for a giraffe than you would think. Gerald is finally able to dance to his own tune when he gets some encouraging words from an unlikely friend.

DIRECTIONS

Estimated time: 30-45 minutes

Materials: craft rolls, beads, popsicle sticks, masking tape, (optional: markers and stickers to decorate)

1. Introduce yourself to the group and say today we are going to read a story about a giraffe who longs to go to the Jungle Dance, but he does not think he can join in because he believes that he does not know how to dance.
2. Read *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Gilles Andreae. How did Gerald feel at the beginning of the story? Can you think of a time when you felt like you did not belong? What lesson does Gerald learn in this story? How do you think the other jungle animals feel at the end of the story?
3. The cricket in the story says, "Everything makes music if you really want it to." Today we are going to make our own musical shaker!
4. First, pinch one side of the craft roll and tape it closed.
5. Next, put a small handful of beads into the opening. Do not fill with beads completely or there will not be space to shake.
6. Then, pinch the open side of the craft roll and tape shut so that both sides are taped shut.
7. Last, tape the popsicle stick along one side as a handle.
8. Decorate with stickers and markers (optional)
9. Have fun dancing to your own rhythm!

For more related resources visit:
RIF.org/Literacy-Central

