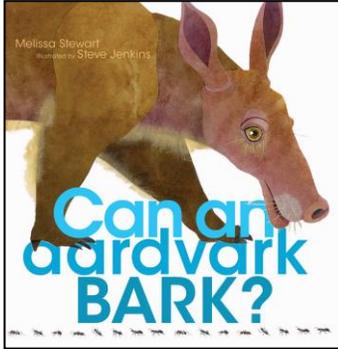




Science Writer • Editor • Educator

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Can an Aardvark Bark?

By Melissa Stewart

Illustrated by Steve Jenkins

About the Book

Barks, grunts, squeals—animals make all kinds of sounds to communicate. With a growling salamander and a whining porcupine, bellowing giraffes and laughing gorillas, this boisterous book is chock-full of fun and interesting facts and is sure to be a favorite of even the youngest animal enthusiasts.

Reading to Young Children

Can an Aardvark Bark? features two kinds of text. When sharing the book with young children, read the large main text first. Then you can fill in details from the secondary text as appropriate.

Before You Read

- Invite children to share what they think the book will be about.
- After letting them know that the book is about the sounds different animals make, work with the children to create a list of wordless sounds that humans make. Possibilities include laughing, humming, whining, and groaning. Invite the children to make each sound. Then ask them how they think a person feels when he or she makes that sound.
- Ask the children if they think animals make any of the sounds on their list. If so, do they think the animals make those sounds for the same reason as people?

After You Read

- Work with children to make a list of the animal sounds included in the book. Are any of those sounds on the list they created before reading the book?
 - If so, circle them. Then ask the children if the animals in the book make those sounds for the same reason as people.
 - If not, ask the children why they think the animals in the book don't make those sounds.
- As you take a finger walk through the book, work with students to answer the following questions.
 - What sounds do the following animals use to attract mates: barking tree frog, North American porcupine, koala, moose?
 - What sounds do the following animals use to announce their location: white-tailed deer, common barking gecko, hippopotamus, laughing kookaburra?
 - Why do you think animals use so many different sounds for the same reason?