



Sunita, Gita Wolf

[Gobble You Up!](#) is a story in cumulative rhyme, centering on a wily jackal, who is too lazy to hunt for his food. He tricks his friend, the crane into becoming his prey, and then proceeds to gobble up every animal he comes across.

The book features Meena art from Rajasthan, done by women on the walls and floors of their homes. This is the first time that this style – rarely seen outside the confines of Meena villages – has been used in a children’s book. Meena artist Sunita’s black-and-white drawings rework traditional imagery to illustrate a gamboling tale.

Here is a set of activities, asking children to do a variety of tasks. An educator can take them through this list carefully and explain what needs to be done.

TEXT

1. Read the story out aloud. What is special about it? Have children heard other stories like this one?
2. Ask the children to sit in a circle and pass the book around. Let each child take on the voice of one of the characters and read out the lines pertaining to the creature. If you want this session to be more dynamic, you could convert the story into a play – and you will have the jackal running after several creatures which in turn are running away from him!
3. Do the children like the way the animals are described – for example, the jackal is 'wily', the squirrel is 'cheeky'... Would they describe these creatures differently? If so, why? If not, why not?
4. Build a discussion around why the jackal does what he does. Get children to identify words in the text that explain the jackal's motives and character.
5. Creature after creature finds its way into the jackal's stomach: ask the children to imagine what each of them would have to say to the other.
6. Do the children like the way the story ends? Would they like it to end differently?

ART

1. Explain to children how Meena art is done and call attention to how the artists love drawing baby animals and birds and their mothers.
2. Point to how the animals are drawn: not as we see them in real life, but nevertheless we can recognise them. How?
3. Sometimes the artist draws designs or patterns on an animal's face, instead of features. Why has she done that? Based on children's responses, start a discussion on 'patterns' and how they are made. Point to the element of repetition, especially of simple shapes, such as lines and dots.
4. Get children to notice how the artist has accommodated all the animals inside the jackal's stomach. Describe how she has done this – her manner of composition.
5. Ask children to draw the outline of an animal they like and fill the inside with patterns. Or alternately, draw an animal outline on the board. Ask children to fill the outline with creatures of their choice. Guide them through this composition, without telling them what to draw and how to draw.



WHAT IS **EXPLORE THE BOOK?**

Our free resources and activity sheets help parents and educators looking to extend the scope of our books. They contain pointers and questions for discussion, as well as suggestions for activities based on the ideas, art and narrative in the book.

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