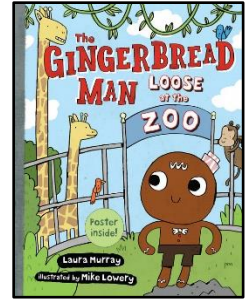


Writing Animal Riddles

Writing riddles is a fun way to practice skills such as **researching** animal attributes, **prediction**, and using **descriptive vocabulary**. (Please see list of writing skills, and VA & CC standards for K-6th grade at the end.)



Have students pick an animal and then answer these questions to come up with descriptors for that animal. This can be done as a group or individually.

- What does the animal look like? Color? Size?
- Where does the animal live? Habitat?
- What sound does the animal make?
- What does the animal eat?
- Words that describe how the animal moves.
- What is the animal's baby called?
- Do you know the species of the animal?
- Does the animal have personality traits? Like sneaky or stealthy?

Then students can use the descriptors to write a riddle. Here are a few examples.

- I live in Africa and Asia.
I have wrinkly gray skin and large flapping ears.
I am the largest land mammal.
(Elephant)
- I live in the icy Artic.
My fur is white and my claws are powerful.
I can weigh as much as 1300 pounds.
(Polar Bear)

If your students are up for a **challenge**, they can try to incorporate the descriptors into **rhyming riddles**.

On the next page is a list of rhyming words I worked with while writing *The Gingerbread Man Loose at the Zoo* that might help. Have fun!

Possible Animal-Related Rhymes

(This list is by no means complete with all the possible rhymes. Feel free to add your own. ☺)

Here are a few examples:

- I wear a tuxedo, but not a bow tie.
I'm a black and white bird, but I do not fly.
(Penguin)
- I live in the ocean. My flukes are my tail.
I breathe with a blowhole. I am a blue ____?

Rhyming takes some extra time, but can add another element of fun. You can also use a rhyming dictionary or www.RhymeZone.com to help you find more rhymes.

- Zoo / You / Kangaroo/ Gnu / New / Chew / Two / Too / Eww! / Do / Poo / Blue/ Clue / Whew! / Flew / True / Cockatoo / Caribou / Peek-a-Boo / Crew
- Feather / Together / Weather
- Wings/ Swings / Things / Flings
- Spunky / Monkey
- Wild / Smiled / Child / Mild
- Head / Ahead / Bed / Instead / Said
- Tail / Quail / Sail / Scale / Nail / Whale / Trail
- Day / Way / Sway/ Away / Say / Hooray / Gray / Say
- Cat / Bat / Mat / Sat / Fat / Gnat / Hat / Rat
- Slow / Go / Below / Hello / Although / Know / No / Oh-No! /
- Giraffe / Laugh / Calf / Staff / Half
- Fun / Done / One / Run / Sun / Begun
- Snack / Back / Black / Yak / Shack / Thwack! / Whack!
- Creaky / Freaky / Sneaky
- Pouch / Ouch
- Furry / Hurry / Worry / Flurry
- Fin / Spin / Grin
- Cave / Behave / Wave / Crave / Save
- Hug / Snug / Bug / Rug / Dug / Slug / Tug / Jug
- Park / Dark / Bark / Shark / Aardvark / Spark / Ark
- End / Friend
- Dens / friends
- Shriek / Beak / Leak / Squeak
- Fly / Eye / Cry / Spry / Sky / Sly / Sigh / Why / Guy / Supply
- Moose / Goose / Loose

- Cool / Pool / School / Tool
- Swim / Trim / Whim / Slim
- Smell / Farewell / Yell / Tell
- Tree / Knee / Me / Wheel / Bee / Three / Spree / Flea
- Rocks / Fox
- Trap / Snap / Flap / Map / Tap / Clap / Lap / Snap / Zap / Scrap / Nap / Chap
- Eyes / Surprise
- Seal / Meal / Deal / Real / Feel / Heel / Peel / Wheel / Squeal
- Roam / Home
- Mother / Brother / Another / Other
- Belong / Along / Strong / Long
- Spots / Dots
- Roar / Door / More / Four / Snore / Floor / Ignore / Adore / Soar / Boar
- Trunk / Dunk / Thunk! / Chunk / Skunk
- Brown / Down / Frown
- Ground / Around / Found / Hound / Bound / Sound / Round
- Said / Ahead / Bed / Bread / Fed / Instead / Dread
- Feet / Neat / Meat / Heat / Seat / Tweet
- Riddle / Twiddle / Middle / Fiddle / Diddle
- Safari / Sorry / Starry
- Vines / Lines / Signs
- Ride / Hide / Side / Beside / slide / Stride / Tried / Wide / Inside / Outside / Replied
- Jaws / Claws / Paws / Applause / Because
- Teeth / Beneath
- Chatter / Pitter-Patter / Splatter / Matter / Shatter / Scatter
- Stripes / Swipe / Pipe / Wipe / Gripe
- Fur / Purr
- Horn / Corn / Warn
- Bird / Heard / Herd / Word
- Mammal / Camel
- Fish / Dish / Wish / Squish
- Big / Pig / Dig / Twig
- Tall / Small / Haul / Fall / Crawl / Wall
- Bear / Fair / Hair / Dare / Care / Mare / Rare / Stare / Prepare
- Llama / Mama / Drama
- Food / Mood / Rude / Conclude

Writing Skills

Research

Prediction

Writing Nonfiction

Rhyme

Descriptive Vocabulary

English Virginia Standards of Learning: K-6

- K1.b
- K.10.a 4.4.c 6.4.b.c.d
- K.12 4.5.c,I 6.5.b.g
- 1.10.f 4.7.e.i.j.k 6.6.c
- 1.13, a, b, c, d 4.9.b.c.d 6.7.e
- 2.10 5.4.e
- 2.12 a,c 5.5.d.k
- 2.14 5.7.f.h.i
- 3.7 5.9.b.c
- 3.9 6.3.b

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/2010/stds_all_english.pdf

Common Core: K-6

Kindergarten:

ELA W.7, W.8
ELA L.1f, L.5d
RF.K.2.a

3rd Grade

RI.3.5
ELA W.3.2, W.3.3, W.3.7, W.3.8
L.3.3.a, L.3.5c

6th Grade

W.6.2b,d
W.6.3d, W.6.7
L.6.3a, L.6.5c

1st Grade:

ELA W.1.7, W.7, W.8
ELA L.1f, L.1j,
L.1.5a,b,c,d
RL1.4

4th Grade

RL.4.5
L.4.3.d
W.4.7, W.4.8, W.4.9a

2nd Grade:

ELA W.2.3, W.2.7, W.5, W.7
ELA L.1e, L.2.1e, L.2.5a, b, L.2.6
RL2.1, RL2.4

5th Grade

RL5.7
W.5.2b,d, W.5.3d, W.5.7, W.5.8
L.5.4c

http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_ELA%20Standards.pdf