

MURILLA GORILLA

JUNGLE DETECTIVE

Teachers'
Guide





The Story

Murilla is a messy, disorganized gorilla who lives in a hut in the African Rainforest. She works as a jungle detective, busy solving mysteries for her friends at Mango Market. In this first book of the *Murilla Gorilla Detective* series, Ms. Chimpanzee's muffins are stolen. She has a slow start. Yet, with a few wacky ideas and some lucky breaks, Murilla eventually discovers the muffin thief.

About this Guide

This guide is intended to help teachers enrich the learning experience of their students, after reading *Murilla Gorilla*.



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Activities

Learning about the Animals of the Rainforest

Murilla Gorilla is set in the African rainforest. Its characters are animals naturally seen in this habitat. Some of the animal names might be unfamiliar to the students.

Here is a list of the animals seen in the first book.

- Gorilla
- Mandrill
- Chimpanzee
- Tree Frog
- Parrot
- Hippo
- Okapi
- Leopard
- Anteater



Have your students pick one animal from the story. Online or in your school library, have the students research information about this animal. The students can then draw a picture of their choice and they could write three points about this animal to present to the class.

Another idea is to do an in depth class research project about Gorillas. Have your students consult the Murilla Gorilla Kids Page for basic information about gorillas to help you get started.

You can create a comparison chart of how Murilla Gorilla lives and eats with the habits of real-life gorillas.



Activities



Learning about Mystery Writing

Murilla Gorilla solves a mystery. Why not use this book as a way to teach beginning mystery writing to your students?

Ahead of time, have your students create their own magnifying glasses. You can use the template seen on the Murilla Gorilla Kids Page.

Next, create your own mystery in your own classroom environment. Pretend that your blackboard eraser is missing. Leave clues around, such as the sweater of the teacher next door, an anonymous note by the chalkboard and chalk footprints leading out your door. Have the kids follow the footprints. Have the teacher next door confess to having “borrowed” the eraser.

Write a class book about the mystery, each person either contributing to the illustrations or to writing of a page. More advanced students can write their own simple mysteries.

Baking with Your Class

In Murilla Gorilla, Ms. Chimpanzee’s muffins are stolen. Why not bake banana muffins as a class, practising beginning math fraction skills as the students take turns to measure the ingredients? Please consult the Murilla Gorilla Kids Page for a delicious recipe written in child-friendly language.

