

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



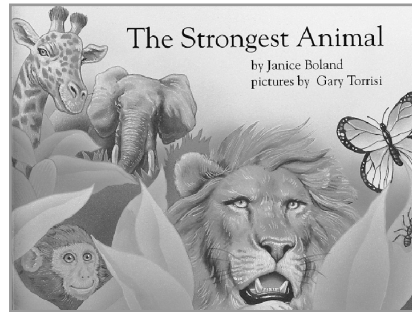
The Strongest Animal

Author Janice Boland

Illustrator Gary Torrissi

12 pages ■ 58 words

El animal más fuerte ■ 51 words



The Strongest Animal

Em	Early				Fluent			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	S	G			I			

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

SYNOPSIS

A first-person report of what a boy saw during a visit to the zoo.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Realistic fiction report
- First person (“I” unseen until page 9)
- Past tense
- Inferential reading of text and illustrations
- Illustration shows only one animal, but text implies plural
- Superlatives (through comparatives not shown)
- Varied sentence structures
- Adjectives, attributes

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Making inferences from text and illustration
- Vocabulary developed: superlatives, structural analysis to base word: tall, taller, tallest
- Identifying adjective and its position before noun

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

Discuss the title: *Which word tells what kind of animal we are going to read about? Which animal do you predict to be the strongest? Which of the other animals are strong? Is a _____ stronger than a _____?*

- Write “strong, stronger, strongest” as beginning of chart to be completed after the reading

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent	Em	Early				Fluent			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
		S	G			I			

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



The Strongest Animal (continued)

FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- Function and position of adjectives
- Making inferences
- Understanding superlatives
- Identifying adjective and its position

It says "the biggest elephant." What does that mean? The biggest of what? How else could we say that? (bigger than all other elephants)

- Identify root/base word in each adjective

Page 7: What has the author told us about the trip to the zoo? Do we know who "I" is?

Page 8: What has changed? What do you know about this text? Describe the faces on the boy and the lion.

Page 10: How could an ant be the strongest animal?

Page 12: Do you agree that the ant was the strongest animal? Think carefully.

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Discuss superlatives
- Return to the chart begun during the introduction. List other superlatives and complete with root word and *-er*. Then add examples such as:
 - tall taller tallest
 - John Mary Stefan
 - big bigger biggest
 - bump hill mountain