

A Very Strange Creature

by Ronda Armitage and Layn Marlow

This popular story with a twist is great for sharing with small groups of children.

Quick questions to share with your group

- Why do all the animals in the jungle think that the baby is strange?
- What can the baby do that the animals can't?
- Do you find it funny that the animals see the baby as a strange creature?
- What different things do you find strange?
- Why does the mother love her baby?

A jungle adventure

After reading the book explore the jungle with your group. Show them pictures of animals and the landscape, and tell them how some people also live in the jungle. Ask the children where they think the jungle can be found on a map of the world, and show them different places across the world that have a jungle landscape.

An animal wall display

Ask each child to draw a jungle animal and create a colourful wall display. You could even add animal photographs and snippets of information about life in the jungle that the children and their parents can admire.

Sounds of the jungle

Ask the children what sounds the animals in the book would make and how they would move around using their bodies. Then split the group into five and delegate an animal to each group. They can now create the atmosphere of the jungle with each child moving around and making the noise of their animal.

