



WILD ABOUT BOOKS by Judy Sierra

An event most surprising happens when the Springfield Librarian makes a wrong turn and drives her bookmobile into the local zoo. She opens the door, lets down the stair, turns on the computer, and sits in her chair. She proceeds to do what all librarians do best; she starts reading aloud.

Before she knows what is happening, every animal in the zoo is running "to learn all about this new something called **reading**". The animals went wild about books in all sizes and shapes and languages.

Animal crackers still come in boxes that seem unchanged by time. Have you ever wondered about any of the following questions?

- How many animal crackers come in a box?
- Is there always the same number of crackers in each box?
- Are there always the same kinds of animals in each box?
- Do the animals always come in pairs? This book transitions easily to an activity that can answer these questions; then the data can be collected and used to create a histogram.

Materials: box of animal crackers or large bag of animal crackers divided into small baggies; paper towels or paper plates

Activity: Have students work in pairs. Spread animal crackers out and count them to determine total number in box or bag. Then sort crackers by pairs. Students will share their data with classmates and create a histogram. Then students may eat their animal crackers. While they are enjoying this treat, please read *Animal Crackers*, a poem by Christopher Morley.

SOURCE: This activity was presented by Ralph Yulo at the NSTA Fall 2005 Convention in Hartford, CT.

STANDARDS:

BSL: 1.9, 2.1, 4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 12.2

NCTM: 4d, 4e, 5a, 5c, 11a, 11b, 11c, 13a

SCS: C1, H2, and H5

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Animal Crackers

Animal crackers and cocoa to drink,
That is the finest of suppers I think;
When I'm grown up and can have what I please
I think I shall always insist upon these.
What do YOU choose when you're offered a treat?
When Mother says, 'What would you like best to eat?'
Is it waffles and syrup, or cinnamon toast?
It's cocoa and animals that I love most!
The kitchen's the cosiest place that I know;
The kettle is singing, the stove is aglow,
And there in the twilight, how jolly to see
The cocoa and animals waiting for me.
Daddy and Mother dine later in state,
With Mary to cook for them, Susan to wait;
But they don't have nearly as much fun as I
Who eat in the kitchen with Nurse standing by;
And Daddy once said, he would like to be me
Having cocoa and animals once more for tea.

Christopher Morley
1890 - 1957

