

## **Pandamonia**

By Chris Owen & Illustrated by Chris Nixon

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When visiting the zoo, whatever you do, DON'T WAKE THE PANDA! Join in the fantastic fun as one grumpy panda sets off a frenzy of wild partying.



Teacher notes are an edited version of those supplied by the publisher, Fremantle Press. The full version is available at [www.fremantlepress.com.au](http://www.fremantlepress.com.au) and also on our website [www.lamontbooks.com.au](http://www.lamontbooks.com.au).

### **Themes:**

- Zoo animals
- Natural habitats
- Diversity
- Rhyme
- Humour

### **CLASSROOM IDEAS:**

- **Animal antics** – interactive read-aloud with play-acting. As a class, create actions to accompany each page of Pandamonia. Read the book aloud, inviting students to stand up and perform these actions at the appropriate points (e.g. when the hippos get jumpy they usually hop – children hop on the spot).
- **Readers theatre**— Present a reading of Pandamonia at your school assembly. Divide the verses among students. Children who are not readers should design zoo animal masks to act as the various characters during the performance, providing sound effects and movement.
- **Rhyme time – animal poetry**
  1. There are many rhyming pairs in the story – point to the rhyming words on each page. How many rhyming pairs can you find in the entire book?
  2. How has the author used rhyme, rhythm and repetition in his verses? Can you write a verse or a poem in the same style? Choose a zoo animal that has not already been included in the book (e.g. a tiger) and create your own poem/verse.
  3. Working with a partner, create a list of ten rhyming pairs that relate to the theme 'The Zoo'.
- **Imaginations run wild – short story titled '\_\_\_\_\_ ' for a day**  
Choose your favourite zoo animal from Pandamonia. Imagine that you can live as this animal for one day – what kinds of adventures will you have? Will you live in the wild or in a zoo?
- **Animal artwork**
  1. What style has the illustrator used to draw the characters – realistic, cartoon, artistic, fantasy? What do you like about this style? What would you have done differently if you were the illustrator?
  2. Can you think of a zoo animal that is not in the story? Design an illustration for this animal modelled after Chris Nixon's style. (Hint: consider his use of shapes, patterns, repetition, colours etc.) What materials will you need to create your artwork? For older students - you might like to try Styrofoam Printing. Etch a picture of your animal into a piece of foam using a sharp pencil. Ink it up with block ink using a roller. Print onto paper or cardboard.
- **Inquiry project – giant pandas:** As a class, research and write a response to the following questions:
  1. Approximately how many giant pandas are left in the world?
  2. Why are giant pandas an endangered species?
  3. What can you do to help?
- **Biological science:** How many different species can you count in Pandamonia? Are there any species you have never heard of before? Research one of these animals and create a fact sheet about them. Use the following subheadings: name, habitat, diet, life cycle, labelled diagram, conservation status.