

USBORNE VERY FIRST READING: BOOK 10



Late Night at the Zoo



Mairi Mackinnon
Illustrated by John Joven

Late Night at the Zoo

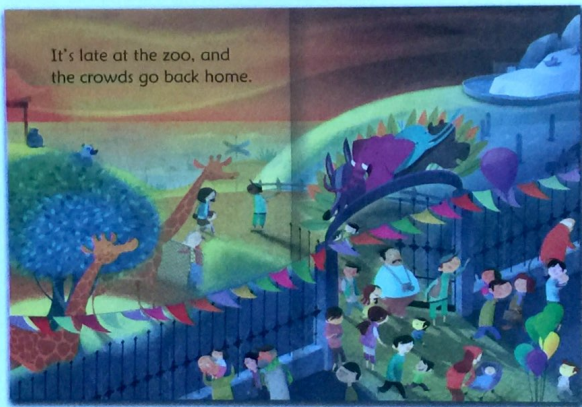


Written by Mairi Mackinnon

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How this book works

The story of *Late Night at the Zoo* has been written for your child to read with your help. Encourage your child to read as much as they can, helping to sound out the words if they get stuck.



There are puzzles after the story, and for these you will need to read the instructions to your child.

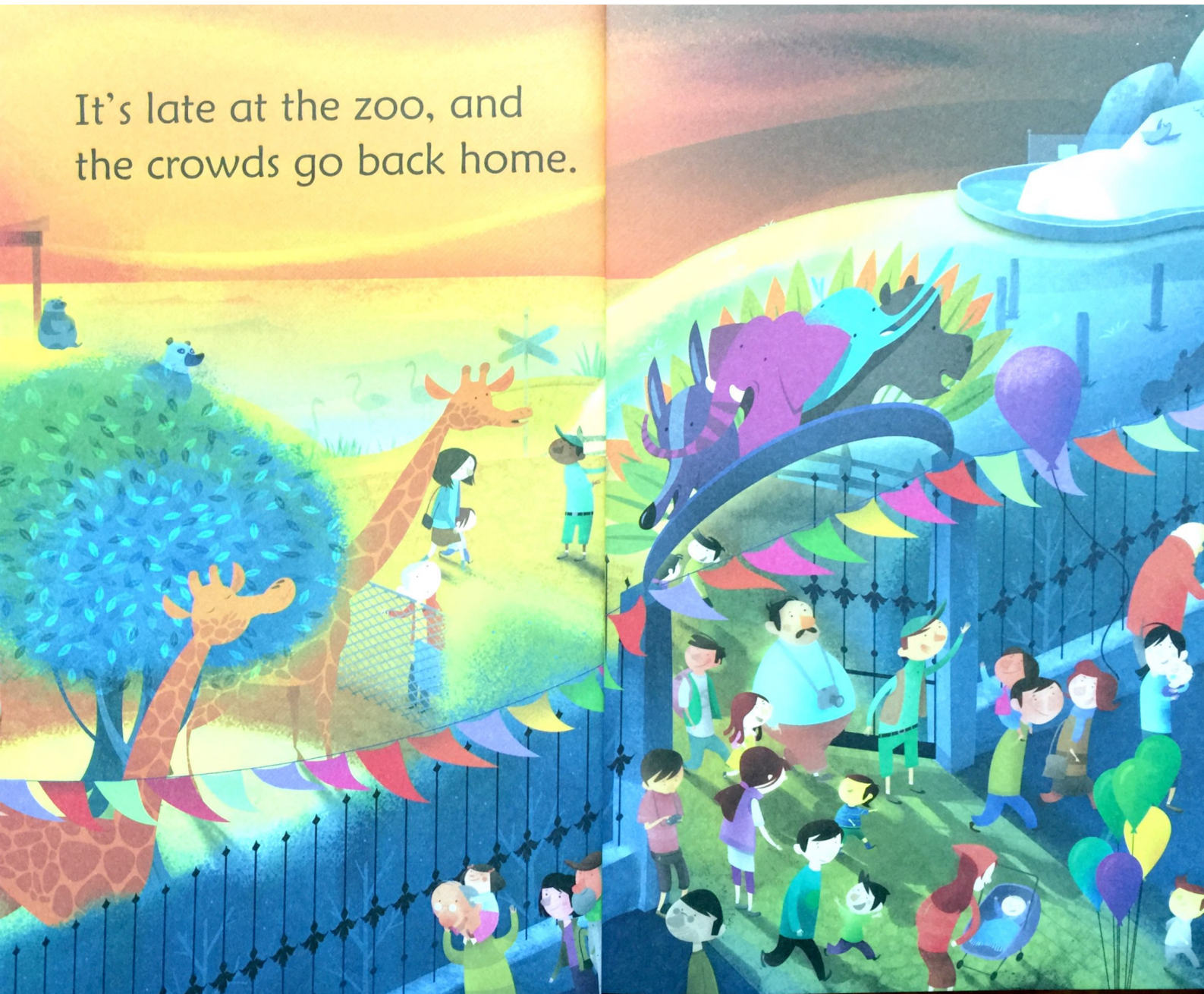
You can find out more about helping your child with this book, and with reading in general, on pages 30-31.

Late Night at the Zoo



Turn the page to start the story.

It's late at the zoo, and
the crowds go back home.





But do you suppose
that we just sit and moan?

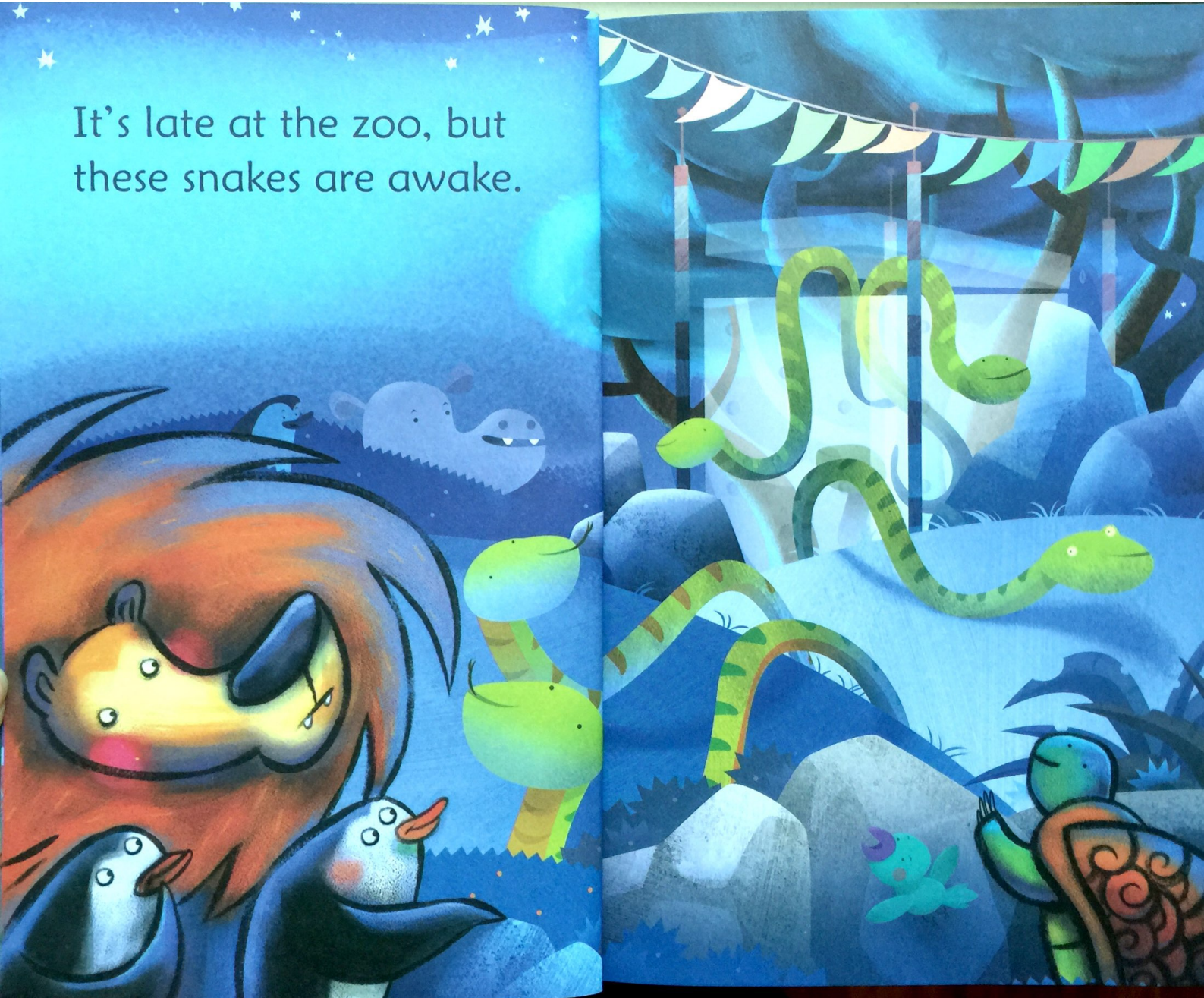
Not us! We need no
excuse for a tune.



Oh, we do like a sing-song
under the moon.



It's late at the zoo, but these snakes are awake.



“Shall we play a game?
Let us chase, you escape.”





It's late at the zoo.
See the big gum trees?

These baboons have
set up a flying trapeze.

It's late at the zoo.
Soon the zebras arrive.



And the pandas are saying,
“It’s time for a ride.”





And we gallop around,
until we collide.





Then you see,
in the daytime,
we just sleep inside.

Puzzle 1

What is it? Choose the right description for each picture.



- A It's a sing-song.
- B It's a game of ping-pong.



- A It's a game.
- B It's a picture frame.



- A It's a cooling breeze.
- B It's a flying trapeze.



- A It's time for a ride.
- B It's time for the slide.

Puzzle 2

Choose the right word to complete each phrase.

1.



The crowds go back

hole

home

hope

2.



These are awake.

shakes

stakes

snakes

3.



..... the zebras arrive.

Noon

Moon

Soon

4.



We just inside.

sheep

sleep

steep

Puzzle 3

The words on the left are all in the story.
Can you find their opposites on the right?

day

over

under

leave

awake

night

arrive

forward

back

asleep

Answers to puzzles

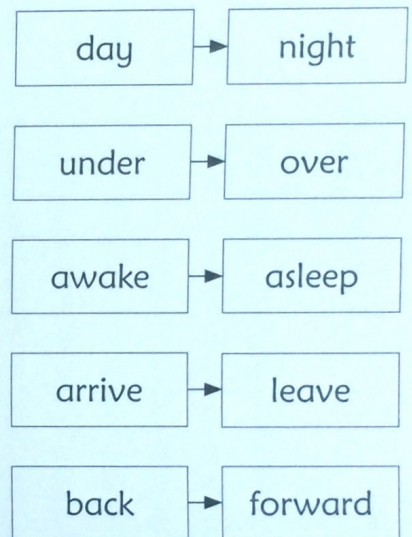
Puzzle 1

1. A It's a sing-song.
2. A It's a game.
3. B It's a flying trapeze.
4. A It's time for a ride.

Puzzle 2

1. The crowds go back home.
2. These snakes are awake.
3. Soon the zebras arrive.
4. We just sleep inside.

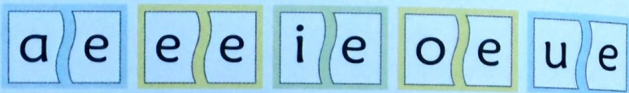
Puzzle 3



Guidance notes

Usborne Very First Reading is a series of books, specially developed for children who are learning to read. **Late Night at the Zoo** is the tenth book in the series, and by this stage your child should be able to read the story alone, with occasional help from you.

The story of **Late Night at the Zoo** introduces the following spelling patterns:



These are sometimes referred to as “the magic e” – it can be a tricky concept at first (one letter-sound changes because of another letter later in the word), but words spelled in this way tend to be pronounced very consistently. Later books in the series gradually introduce more spelling patterns, while reinforcing the ones your child already knows.

You'll find lots more information about the structure of the series, advice on helping your child with reading, extra practice activities and games on the Very First Reading website, *
www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading

*US readers go to www.veryfirstreading.com



Some questions and answers

- **Why do I need to read with my child?**
Sharing stories makes reading an enjoyable and fun activity for children. It also helps them to develop confidence and stamina. Even if you are not taking an active part in reading, your listening and support are very important.
- **When is a good time to read?**
Choose a time when you are both relaxed, but not too tired, and there are no distractions. Only read for as long as your child wants to – you can always try again another day.
- **What if my child gets stuck?**
Don't simply read the problem word yourself, but prompt your child and try to find the right answer together. Similarly, if your child makes a mistake, go back and look at the word together. Don't forget to give plenty of praise and encouragement.
- **We've finished, now what do we do?**
It's a good idea to read the story several times to give your child more practice and more confidence. Then, when your child is ready, you can go on to the next book in the series, **Wild School**.

Edited by Jenny Tyler and Lesley Sims
Designed by Caroline Spatz



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UE. First published in America in 2010.



Late Night at the Zoo

Late Night at the Zoo is part of the **Usborne Very First Reading** series which has been specially developed to help children learn to read. Each book in the series introduces new letters or reading patterns, and reinforces material from previous books.

Designed for an adult and child to read together, the series combines lively rhyming stories with inspiring illustrations in order to build the skills and confidence that will encourage a lifelong enjoyment of reading.



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