

# ERROL AND HIS EXTRAORDINARY NOSE

GRADES  
PREK–1

DAVID CONWAY  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
ROBERTA ANGARAMO

## About the Book

*No talent? Not so! Young Errol the Elephant realizes he is special after all!*

All the young animals in Acacia Tree School have a skill to show off in the upcoming talent show . . . except Errol the Elephant. But when Errol's dad gives him a book about elephants, the little pachyderm discovers just how extraordinary he is, right down to the end of his nose.

## SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

### Language Arts

**Discussion**—Students can discuss as a class or in small groups the following questions: How did Errol feel when he knew that his classmates thought he was awkward and clumsy and that his nose looked silly? Have you ever felt the same way . . . and if so, what did you do about it? How did reading a book about elephants help Errol? How does finding correct information about something help all of us in our everyday lives? Was there anything in this story that will encourage you try something you have never done before? What was it?

**Writing**—Have students write a paragraph about a particular talent that they have, or things that they can do really well. Their paragraphs can be illustrated and combined into a class book. The class may want to present a talent show for another class in which each student can shine with his/her own individual talent.

**Fiction vs. Nonfiction**—Errol is an elephant who talks, reads a book, sleeps in a bed, and goes to school. Ask students whether real elephants can do these things and explain that this story is *fiction* even though it deals with a situation that real kids might experience. The book with facts about elephants that Errol reads was *nonfiction*. Students might enjoy reading or hearing the nonfiction book, *Elephants of Africa* by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, 2008), which contains many more facts about elephants. They can look/listen for the same facts that Errol found in his book.

**Research**—Errol's classmates and teacher were other animals: African finches, anaconda, chameleons, giant tortoise, meerkat, and zebra. Students can use encyclopedias, books, or online resources to find facts about these animals; and they can compare these facts with the "talents" that these animals had in the story. They can create a bulletin board display that shows an illustration of each animal and some important facts they have found about that animal.

## Online Resources

[www.google.com/images](http://www.google.com/images)

Students can enter the name of each of the animals in the book to access a variety of photos of the animal.

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/>

This site presents information on a variety of animals; the animals in the story can be found by searching in the Animals A-Z section on the right side of the page.

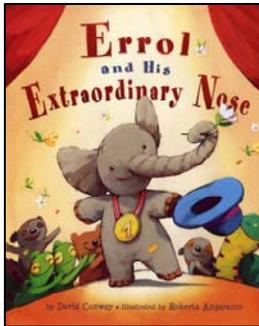
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/default.cfm>

Students can enter the name of each animal from the book into the Search box, which will lead them to pictures and information about that animal.

## About the Author/Illustrator

**David Conway** has written several picture books, including *The Most Important Gift of All*, which was illustrated by Karen Littlewood and nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal.

**Roberta Angaramo** began her career as an artist before becoming an illustrator of children's books. She has illustrated more than thirty books.



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978-0-8234-2262-3

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