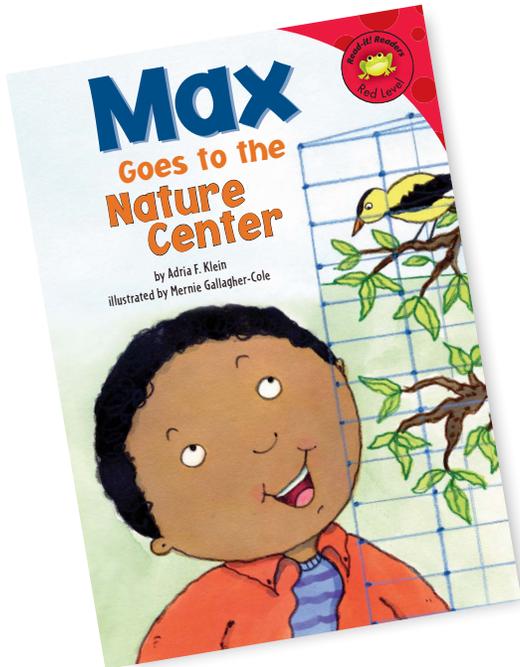


CREATIVE DRAMATICS

 Picture Window™
Books



Max Goes to the Nature Center written by Adria F. Klein

Characters:	Narrator Max Zoe Nature Center animals
Props:	Pictures/drawings of snakes, Butterflies, Birds, Bird nest, and bird eggs, Animal puppets, Coloring sheets
Genre:	Realistic fiction
Ages:	4-6

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NOTES TO THE LEADER OF THE CREATIVE DRAMATICS SESSION

Before acting out the story, read *Max Goes to the Nature Center* to the entire class.

The leader/narrator of the creative dramatics session needs to give clear, simple clues to the children who are acting out the story. First, select the children who will be playing the separate parts. Max and Zoe can be played by two individuals or by a group. Also choose children to play the animals at the nature center: snake, birds, and butterflies at the end.

The leader might want to ask the children to describe the characters before the session begins. For example, "What are words to describe Max and Zoe?" Answers could include friendly, curious, smart, happy, excited, etc.

The children can act out the story from their chairs, sitting on the floor, or by standing in clearly marked places where the action will take place. The front of the room could be the Nature Center. It is always a good idea to make sure that all the characters and locations (if you decide to use them) are clearly established before the play session begins.

Narrator: Zoe is excited to go to the nature center!

(If the students don't respond, the narrator can always ask questions such as, "How would Max and Zoe show that they are excited? How can you tell when someone is excited and happy? What do they do?" Or show the illustrations on pp. 4 and 5 to show how the Max and Zoe react to news of their trip to the nature center.)

She asks, "Max, do you want to go to the nature center?"

Zoe: Max, do you want to go to the nature center?

Narrator: Max says he would love to go to the nature center.

Max: I would love to go to the nature center!

Narrator: *(Children act excited by jumping and clapping their hands.)*

At the nature center, a sign has information about animals.

(Narrator can ask the children, "What kinds of animals might live at the nature center?")

The sign shows the colors and sizes of the animals. It shows how different animals live.

Narrator: Max and Zoe say they want to go see the snakes.

Max and Zoe: I want to go see the snakes!

Narrator: *(Narrator can ask, "What colors might the snakes be?")*

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Narrator: They see snakes of different sizes.

The snakes are in many glass cages.

(The Narrator can provide cues to the children. "How do snakes move? Where do they live?")

Max and Zoe can see nests and holes where the snakes live.

Max and Zoe: *(pointing)* I can see all the holes and nests!

Narrator: They even see skin that the snakes have shed.

Max and Zoe say they want to go see the birds.

Max and Zoe: I want to go see the birds!

Narrator: The birds are in a big cage. Max and Zoe go into the cage to see the different birds.

Narrator: *(Narrator could ask, "What do birds like to eat? How do birds get around? Can you show me how birds move?")*

Narrator: They see birds of many colors. They see birds of different sizes.

Max and Zoe see many nests where birds live.

They see five bird eggs and lots of feathers.

Max and Zoe: I see five eggs!

Narrator: *(Narrator can prompt, "Can you count to five? Let's all count to five together.")*

Narrator: Max and Zoe go to the activity center. Max makes a paper snake. Zoe makes a nest. They tell each other, "Look what I made!"

Max and Zoe: Look what I made!

Narrator: It is getting late. It is time to go home. Max and Zoe say they wish they could see the butterflies.

Max and Zoe: I wish we could see the butterflies.

Narrator: Outside, Max and Zoe see butterflies everywhere.

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Narrator: *(Have all the students playing the butterflies come out and pretend to flutter around the room.)*

They say they are happy to see the butterflies.

Max and Zoe: I am happy to see the butterflies!

Narrator: Max and Zoe had fun at the nature center.

THE END