

# Giraffes Can't Dance

# VOOKS

**Run Time:** 7:16

**Author:** Giles Andreae

**Illustrator:** Guy Parker-Rees

**Narrator:** Billy Dee Williams

**Ages:** 4-8

**Guided Reading Level:** L  
AD570L / ATOS RL 3.8

**Genre**

Fiction

**Text Structure**

Third person narrative with some dialogue

**Content**

Friendship helps Gerald overcome his obstacles, amid bullying, to achieve self-esteem and the acceptance of the bullies.

**Themes and Ideas**

Bullying, sensitivity, self-esteem, overcoming challenges and obstacles.

**Language and Literary Features**

Colorful illustrations and rhyming text

**Sentence Complexity**

Simple and compound sentences. Dialogue, including thoughts.

**Vocabulary**

May be necessary to review animal recognition

**Illustrations**

Colorful cartoon like illustrations of animals

**Book and Print Features**

Illustrations on every page. Some words italicized for emphasis.

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## Summary

Gerald the Giraffe longs to dance like everyone else, but he looks different than the rest of the animals, and he just can't seem to get it right. When the rest of the jungle animals make fun of Gerald, he almost gives in to despair—until a friendly cricket gives him some wise advice, and Gerald discovers his own tune.

## Activity Ideas

- Divide the children into groups.
  - Provide music and ask the children to make up their own dance. Perform and celebrate.
- Use the cut-out cards found in the following pages
  - Assign children animals from the story – giraffe, warthogs, rhinos, lions, chimps, baboons, and a cricket. Have the children act out the story.
  - Use the cards for vocabulary matching.
- Use the drawing sheets below and share with the class.
- Find Africa on the map and talk about the jungle.

# Parent Connection

Today our class read Giraffes Can't Dance on Vooks. Friendship helps Gerald the Giraffe overcome his obstacles, amid bullying, to achieve self-esteem and the acceptance of the bullies.

## Talking points

Please help your child answer the following questions. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**What do you do well?**

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**What is something you wish you could do better?**

(Share something that was difficult for you at first and how you were able to improve)

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**Has anyone ever made fun of you? Why? How did you feel?**

(Help your child with coping strategies)

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**Do you have a friend like Cricket? What does that friend do to encourage you?**

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**Are you a friend like Cricket to someone? What do you do to encourage your friend?**

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**(Now would be a wonderful time to turn on some music and dance with your child)**

Draw yourself doing something you do well.

I am good at \_\_\_\_\_.

Draw a picture of the jungle with animals.

The animals in my jungle are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Use cards to assign roles to children for retelling the story. Cards can also be used for matching for vocabulary.

**Giraffe**

**Warthog**

**Chimp**

**Baboon**

**Rhino**

**Cricket**

**Lion**