

Celebrating
Children's Book Week
2009

Animal ~~Tales~~ Tales

Animals are one of the most popular subjects for books, enjoyed by people of all ages. There are a number of different types of animal books including:

Fiction:

1. Stories in which animals play an important part but behave as they would in real life.
2. Animal autobiographies (life stories told as though by the animals themselves) eg *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell.
3. Stories in which animals take on the characteristics of humans. This is called anthropomorphism eg *The 29th Annual African Hippopotamous Race* by Morris Lurie.
4. Tales in which animal features/characters are explained (see right and below). If these stories have been passed down through generations they are known as myths/legends.

Non Fiction:

4. Recounts of real animal behaviour eg *Gorillas in the Mist* by Dian Fossey.
5. Descriptions of animal characteristics and habits eg the *Weird, Wild and Wonderful* series by Kathie Atkinson, Shelly Underwood et al.

Find and read at least one story from each of the book categories listed above. Record your reading on the Personal Reading Record page.

ABORIGINAL DREAMTIME STORIES

The Dreamtime is part of Aboriginal culture and explains the origin of many things in the environment, including the animals. Its stories have been passed down through generations, often through song and dance.

Today a number are available as books eg *Sisi and the Cassowary* by Arone Raymond Meeks;
Dunbi the Owl, The Kangaroo and the Porpoise and *The Echidna and the Shade Tree* all compiled by Pamela Lofts
OR online eg visit:
www.dreamtime.net.au/dreaming/storylist



This tree in Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida, is covered in detailed animal carvings and commemorates author Rudyard Kipling's entertaining tales. Photographer unknown.



Rudyard Kipling was an English author and poet, who was born in Bombay, India in 1865. He worked as a journalist before his stories brought him world fame. The first Englishman to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, he remains the youngest person ever to receive it.

Kipling travelled widely and visited South Africa in the late 1890s, just as safaris became the rage with rich westerners. After that, he visited the country regularly and as a result, came to know the wildlife well.

In 1902 he published the *Just So Stories*, a collection of tales that mimic myths 'explaining' the origin of many animal features eg *How the Leopard Got His Spots, How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin* and *The Elephant's Child* (which explains the elephant's trunk.)

Choose an animal with a distinctive feature or behaviour and write your own story about its origin.