

Class Two At the Zoo – Stage Play

A stage play in one act based on the book Class Two at the Zoo by Julia Jarman. Adapted for stage by Julie Laslett.

Running time approx. 60 mins.

Cast

The Zoo Keeper

Animal Cleaner – Slim

Animal Feeder – Al

Teacher

Children:

Kyle, James, Jake, Diana, Gerty, Anita, Molly, Kate plus several unnamed children, making 14 in total. Plus Joe.

Animals:

Kangaroo, Giraffe, Anaconda, Elephant, Lemur, 2 Parrots, 2 Hippos, 2 Monkeys, 2 Cheetahs, 2 Gorillas and 2 Penguins and more if extra parts are needed.

Scene 1

Animals parade onto the stage and from a tableau to music.

Enter Zoo Keeper, gently pushing his way through the animals and patting, stroking and making little comments as appropriate.

Zoo Keeper

Yes, yes Mrs Giraffe you were very graceful today. That was a lovely display of feathers you parrots. Well done hippos you didn't step on any one and. . . *Appears to step in something*

unpleasant. Oh, err, yuck, who did . . ? Oh, never mind, off you all go back to your pens. Slim will be round with your supper shortly. Well done every one. Phew, yuck. *Examines shoe.* Al, Al bring the poo bucket!

(Sees the audience and speaks directly to them.)

Oh, hello, I didn't see you there. You must be today's visitors to the Zoo. I am in charge of all the animals in the Zoo. Everyone knows me as Mr Zoo Keeper. You can call me Mr Zoo Keeper as well if you like. So now I have introduced myself let me say hello properly. Hello every one! *(Encourage response 'Hello Mr Zoo Keeper'.)* I didn't quite hear you. I am going a little deaf. Hello boys and girls! *(Encourage response from audience.)*

Enter Al with the poo bucket.

Al

Hello, Mr Zoo Keeper. Goodness what a lot of children. I hope they are going to behave themselves.

Zoo Keeper

Don't you worry about the children, I will look after them. You just get rid of the poo and look sharp about it.

Al pulls various faces and postures to try and 'look sharp'.

Slim enters with his food bucket.

Slim

What are you doing, Al?

Al

Trying to look sharp about it.

Zoo Keeper

Don't ask. Al, just clean up the poo.

Slim

Hello, Mr Zoo Keeper. Goodness what a lot of children. I hope they are going to behave themselves.

Zoo Keeper

Don't you worry about the children. They know how to behave. Now what have you got in your food bucket today?

Slim

Oh, I have got some lovely slippery, slimy smelly fish for the seals. *Pulls a fish out of his bucket.*

Al

Pooh, what a whiff.

Slim

Not as smelly as your poo bucket.

Al

Well, you can have some then. How do like this?

Slim

Well you can have my smelly fish then.

Slim and Al chase each other around the stage with the food and poo buckets, eventually turning and throwing the contents over the audience.

Zoo Keeper

Okay you two. That's enough. There's plenty of work to be done. Go and make sure all the animals are locked up in their pens. We don't want any escaping now do we?

Al and Slim

No, Mr Zoo Keeper. Right away, Mr Zoo Keeper.

Exit Al and Slim

Zoo Keeper

Climbing steps to a high chair like a tennis umpire's.

It's very important we make sure the animals' doors are locked properly. I am going to sit up here where I can see the whole Zoo and make sure nothing goes wrong. Listen, come closer. One time we had a terrible do. I shall never forget, the day Class Two came to the Zoo.

Scene 2

Teacher leads Class Two into the zoo/onto the stage from back of hall.

Zoo Keeper

On the day Class Two went to the zoo, they saw a koala kissing a kangaroo.

Animals perform while Teacher and children watch.

Zoo Keeper

They saw a giraffe having a laugh.

Animals perform while Teacher and children watch.

Zoo Keeper

They didn't see...the Anaconda.

Anaconda makes first appearance twisting and hiding round a tree.

Slim and Al enter looking all around as if they have lost something and are arguing with each other.

Slim

It was your fault, I told you he was a slippery customer.

Al

It was your fault, you didn't bolt the gate.

Slim

Oh yes I did.

Al

Oh no you didn't.

Slim

Oh yes I . . . Look it's not going to help find him by arguing.

Al

Oh no it isn't . . . Sorry. You're right. Why don't we ask the children if they have seen him?

Slim

That's the best idea you've had yet.

To the audience. Listen everyone. We need your help. We've lost, we've lost . . . Can you keep a secret?

Play the audience for responses. Can you? Because we've lost, we've lost . . . Oh, Al I can't say it.

Al

They won't know what we are looking for if you don't tell them, Slim. I know, we'll describe him so they know what we're looking for. Listen everyone, he's very long.

Slim

Very long.

Anaconda stretches out behind Al and Slim.

Al

And he's got big eyes.

Anaconda opens one eye.

Slim

Very big eyes.

Anaconda rolls both eyes.

Al

And he's got a zigzag pattern on his back.

Slim

Zigzag, zigzag.

Anaconda wraps himself around a tree showing the zig-zags on his back.

Al

And big teeth.

Anaconda opens his mouth.

Slim

Very big teeth.

Anaconda opens his mouth wider.

Al

But no legs.

Anaconda wraps itself around the tree.

Slim

No legs.

Al

It's a . . . it's a . . . it's an **ana. . . .conda!**

Slim

Sh. Don't let Mr Zoo Keeper know. Have you seen him, children?

*Play audience for '**He's behind you!**' reaction as Slim and Al turn to look and the anaconda hides behind the tree.*

Where?

(Behind you!)

No he isn't. I can't see him. Can you, Al?

AI

No. Well children, if you see him again, you will tell us won't you? *Encourage 'yes' response.* Will you tell us? Oh thank you. Thank you very much. We need all the help we can get. Aren't they lovely children, Slim?

Slim

Yes, they are, but we can't stand here talking. We've got to go and find him before Mr Zoo Keeper finds he is missing.

Exit AI and Slim.

Zoo Keeper

Class Two saw parrots squabbling in the sky.

Animals perform while Teacher and children watch.

But they didn't see...the Anaconda sigh and open one eye to spy on Class Two as they walked round the zoo.

Anaconda appears and opens an eye.

AI and Slim rush onto the stage.

AI

Have you seen him?

Slim

Where? Where? *Play the audience for 'He's behind you!'*

AI

Oh, he isn't there.

Slim

Let's keep looking, I'll go this way. *Points stage left.*

You go that way. *Points stage right.*

Both exit stage left then return centre stage.

No you go that way and I will go this way.

Both exit stage right and return to centre stage.

You go this way.

Pushes Al stage left then leaves stage right.

Zoo Keeper

The children saw hippos hopping in the mud and monkeys eating chocolate pud.

Animals perform while Teacher and children watch.

But they didn't see...the Anaconda ponder then slide from the water and start to wander...after class two on their trip to the zoo some of them walking two by two.

Anaconda slides around the stage.

Enter Al and Slim.

Al

Where, where?

Slim

Have you seen him? Is he long? Has he got bulging eyes? And has he got big teeth ... and no legs? *Play the audience for 'Yes! and 'He's behind you!'*

Al

Oh, he isn't here.

Slim

We might have more luck if we look for him together.

AI

Yes, let's look for that slimy beast together.

AI exits stage right, Slim exits stage left.

They both return and go the other way, return and bump in the middle.

AI holds Slim's hand and they exit together.

Zoo Keeper

They saw spotty cheetahs running a mile. They saw two gorillas jumping a stile.

Animals perform while Teacher and children watch.

But they failed to see the HUGE reptile . . .

Large Anaconda appears. Allow time for audience reaction.

Open his jaws and swallow Kyle.

Anaconda opens mouth and swallows Kyle as AI and Slim come in and see what happens.

Teacher is leading children off stage unaware of Kyle's fate.

AI

Oh Slim, we are in a whole lot of trouble now.

Slim

I know, I know, did you see what happened?

AI and Slim sing:

To tune of 'There was an old woman who swallowed a fly.'

There was an Anaconda who swallowed young Kyle,
We don't know why he swallowed young Kyle
What a nasty reptile.

Encourage audience to repeat 'What a nasty reptile!'

AI

We had better sneak up on that beastly beast and catch him.

Waves large fishing net.

Exit AI and Slim.

*Enter Teacher and Class Two looking at other animals,
unaware of the fate of Kyle.*

Zoo Keeper

They didn't see the giant snake...make a meal of James and
Jake.

Teacher and children don't notice.

Zoo Keeper

They didn't see that twisty beast add Diana to his feast.

Teacher and children are still looking in other direction.

Zoo Keeper

They didn't see that greedy eater...gulp down Gerty and Anita.

Antics of children, Teacher, Snake, Slim and Al.

Zoo Keeper

And it was creeping up on Class Two's teacher when...Molly turned and saw the creature.

Molly

Look out!

Zoo Keeper

She cried, alas too late – Teacher was gone and so was Kate.

Slim and Al come in, see what is happening and freeze with horror.

Al

Oh no, no, no you naughty snake.

Slim and Al

Sing

I know an Anaconda who swallowed young Kyle
I don't know why he swallowed young Kyle
What a nasty reptile!

Encourage audience to repeat 'What a nasty reptile!'

I know an Anaconda who swallowed James and Jake

Which gave him a terrible tummy ache.
He swallowed James and Jake who followed young Kyle
I don't know why he swallowed young Kyle
What a nasty reptile!

Encourage audience to repeat 'What a nasty reptile!'

I know an Anaconda who swallowed Diana
He took a dislike to her yellow bandana.
He swallowed Diana to follow James and Jake
Which gave him a terrible tummy ache
He swallowed James and Jake who followed young Kyle
I don't know why he swallowed young Kyle
What a nasty reptile!

Encourage audience to repeat 'What a nasty reptile!'

I know an Anaconda who swallowed Gerty and Anita
He should have had pizza not Gerty and Anita
He swallowed Gerty and Anita to follow Diana
He swallowed Diana to follow James and Jake
Who gave him a terrible tummy ache
He swallowed James and Jake who followed young Kyle
I don't know why he swallowed young Kyle
What a nasty reptile!

Encourage audience to repeat 'What a nasty reptile!'

I know an Anaconda who swallowed Teacher and Kate
Oh what a mistake, to eat Teacher and Kate
He swallowed Teacher and Kate to follow Gerty and Anita
He swallowed Gerty and Anita to follow Diana
He swallowed Diana to follow James and Jake
Who gave him a terrible tummy ache

He swallowed James and Jake who followed young Kyle
I don't know why he swallowed young Kyle
What a nasty reptile

The Anaconda appears looking sick.

Zoo Keeper

Well, those two weren't much use, singing songs in the middle of an emergency, but Molly – remember Molly? – she didn't waste any time.
She was quick!
She grabbed hold of a sturdy stick.
Without a single moment's pause she stuck it between the monster's jaws.

Molly

Come on!

Zoo Keeper

She urged the rest of Class Two, as she grabbed Kate's feet.

Molly

To the rescue!

Zoo Keeper

The rest of Class Two all heaved and tugged.
But the children inside wouldn't budge.
Inside his tummy it was sticky like glue
And the children seemed stuck
Al and Slim cried . . .

Slim and Al

Boo hoo!

Zoo Keeper

But the intrepid Molly wouldn't give up . . .

Molly

Come on!

Zoo Keeper

She cried

Molly

Just one more tug!

Zoo Keeper

And Kate popped out like a rubber plug!

Then out came Teacher

And Gerty and Anita

And Diana

And Jake and James and . . .

Kyle, his smile as wide as a crocodile.

Slim and Al remove the stick from the Anaconda's mouth.

The Anaconda gives a huge belch.

Zoo Keeper

Then out came a boy they didn't know.

Joe

Thank you. My name is Joe.

Slim and Al

Come on, you. You're going back to your enclosure.

Slim and Al usher a sick looking Anaconda back to the snake house.

Zoo Keeper

Comes down steps to speak directly to audience.

'Phew,' said Class Two as they fled from the Zoo.

'Let this be a terrible warning to you.

When you go on a safari or visit a zoo, keep your eyes open
whatever you do.

Watch out for the snake, lying low in the lake,
And if you see the anaconda open an eye and start to
wander . . .'

Oh no!

*Zoo Keeper sees the Anaconda, who has escaped again,
moving towards him, one eye open.*

Don't, even for a second, ponder

Anaconda looms behind them, closely followed by Al and Slim

Zoo Keeper, Al and Slim

RUN!

CURTAINS