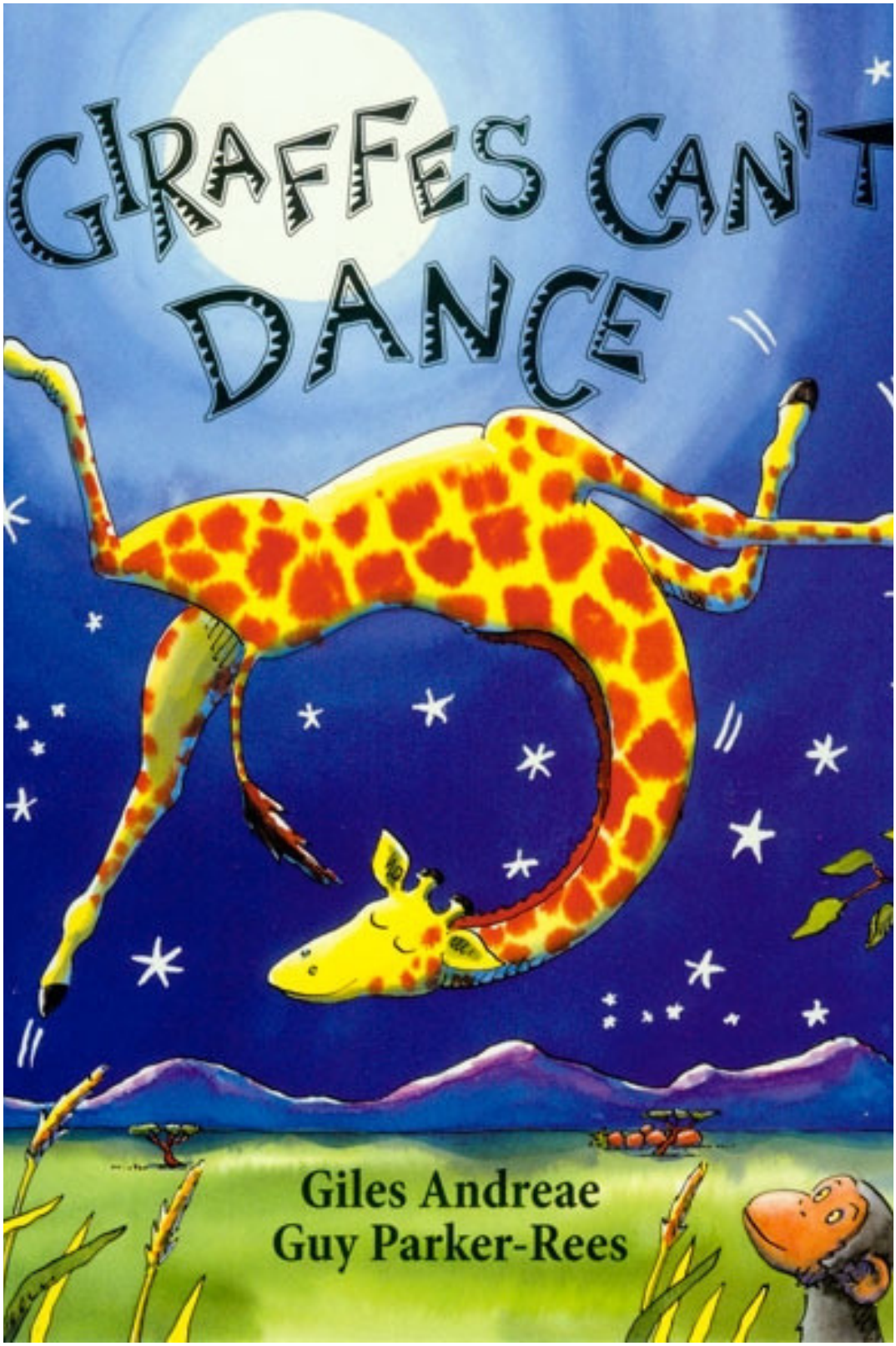
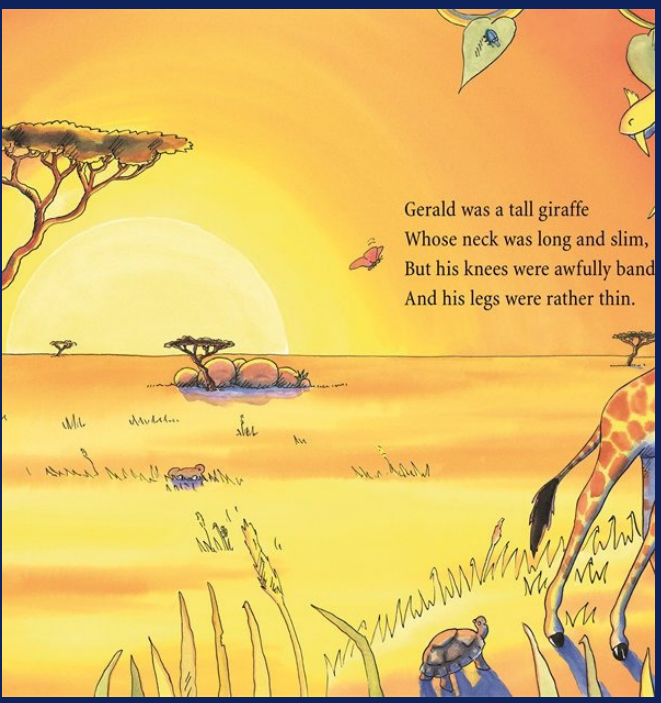
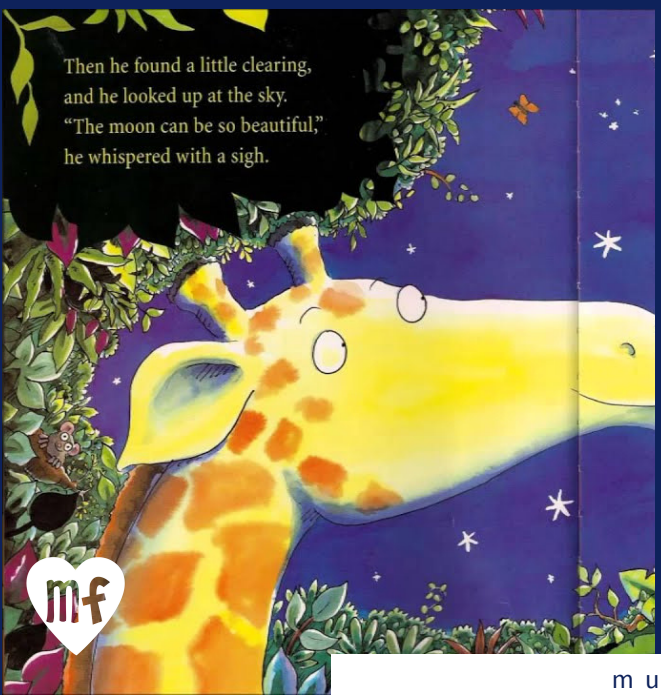
CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS OVER GREAT BOOKS

munchkin reads

GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE







what's inside

02 Plot Summary

03 Academic Key: Knowledge

03 Emotional Key: Social Awareness

04 Conversation Starters

05 Journal Prompts

plot summary

All the animals in the African jungle can boogie. The warthogs waltz, the rhinos rock and the lions dance the tango. Poor Gerald the giraffe doesn't think he can dance like the others.

Enter a smart cricket who instills confidence & teaches Gerald that "sometimes when you're different, you just need a different song!"

be our paparazzi!

Send us pics of your creative writing & play time!

reads@munchkinfun.com

CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS OVER GREAT BOOKS

academic key

We selected this text for its **Vocabulary Growth**

Kids who hear more words spoken at home learn more words and enter kindergarten with richer vocabularies. Hearing words eventually helps them recognize words in print.

Quick tip: expand their thinking with rich oral language.
You ask: What animal was Gerald?
Child: Giraffe
You expand: Yes! Gerald was such a tall and lanky giraffe!

Young children are vocabulary sponges. Some of the descriptive words in the book will be more familiar (lovely, wonderful, amazing) while others might be new (elegant, bold, splendid, clumsy, clot, & entranced). Remember, the more words they hear, the bigger their vocabulary becomes.

emotional key

We selected this text for strengthening **Self Awareness**

The colorful text offers great opportunities to discuss how a child feels about him/herself in large or new group situations.
At first, the other animals sneer and laugh at Gerald.

The cricket helps Gerald appreciate his unique style. Gerald learns to believe in himself, dance to his own beat and be okay with being different. In the end, the animals appreciate Gerald's uniqueness.

CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS OVER GREAT BOOKS

conversation starters

ACT IT OUT

Have an animal dance party (with your entire family or a party of stuffed animals). Try using different music mentioned in the book (waltz, rock n' roll, cha cha) to expose kids to different rhythms, sounds and cultures.

TALK IT OUT

Act out making someone feel better. Offer suggestions like sharing a stuffed animal, giving a hug or high five or taking turns with a toy. Foster empathy and self-awareness by saying, "I like how you gave me a hug! How did that make you feel?"

MAKE IT PERSONAL

This book teaches that we are all good at something—even if we do it a little differently. What does your child like to do? Fly toy airplanes? Stir pancake mix? Blow bubbles? Play with boats in the bath? Spend 10 minutes completely engaged in something totally child-directed. Be sure to locate yourself physically close and tuck phones away.

CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS OVER GREAT BOOKS

journal prompt

In the story, Gerald dances at night. Using bright colors, make a “day” scene on one side. Using darker colors, make a night scene on the other side. Repeat words your child might say like sun, moon and stars.

If you like Giraffes Can't Dance...

- Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
- The Pout-Pout Fish by Deborah Diesen
- Commotion in the Ocean by Giles Andreae
- Rumble in the Jungle by Giles Andreae

MunchkinReads.com

Connect with Munchkin Reads

reads@munchkinfun.com

#MunchkinReads • #MunchkinFun