



PARENT AND TEACHER GUIDE

Learning The Ropes

Themes Found in This Story:

--Hands-On program

The Story:

Learning The Ropes: Some squirrel students have come from America to tell people about Jesus, and Omulonga shows them around.

The parent/teacher may read the story aloud, or print the story for the children to read or follow along.

Characters in this Story

Madala (mah-DAHh-lah)

He is a chameleon from the country of Zambia. His name is the respectful way to say “old man” in the Chinyanga language.

Omulonga (oh-moo-LOHN-gah)

She is a Black-Footed Penguin from Namibia, and is an immigrant new to the area.

Background Information

Many Africans are curious about Americans and other foreigners. While they may not be able to travel much, many do have access to the internet, television and movies. When they meet Americans, Africans—especially students—are very interested to know if life for the Americans is the same as what Africans see in the media. It is the same sort of curiosity Americans feel about African lifestyles—but it can be surprising to find the shoe on the other foot! This curiosity makes it easy to begin conversations and get to know people. Americans seldom have to do more than introduce themselves—their accents give away that they are foreign, and then the questions come naturally.

Many American student groups travel out to Africa to do short term missions. The squirrels in today’s story, for example, represent an International Mission Board student program called Hands-On. College students and recent graduates spend a semester living and working among the people of Africa. They go out in groups of two or more, always working alongside a missionary and helping in his or her work. Many work with students; others teach True Love Waits or help to plant churches. These short-term trips allow young people to explore their options in missions—perhaps leading to a career—while experiencing a new culture, helping missionaries and spreading the Good News.