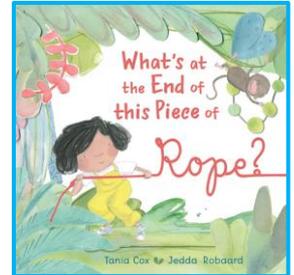


What's at the End of this Piece of Rope?

By Tania Cox and Jedda Robaard



A small child finds a piece of rope lying on the ground and asks what is at the end of this piece of rope? Curious to find out she accepts the help of some friends. One by one jungle animals join her in pulling the rope to find out what is at the end. The beautiful watercolour illustrations give a soft and warm feel while the repeated refrain of “What's at the End of this Piece of Rope?” will have the reader chanting along.

A fun and engaging story which shows children the importance of working together, cooperation and teamwork.

Key Message for Parents | Children learn language by listening to it and using it.

The brain is naturally wired to learn language. Regular and repeated exposure to language reinforces the pathways of the brain that lead to language development. Talking with your child about the world and what they are seeing gives lots of opportunities for them to hear language.

Reading stories also expresses children to language not normally heard in everyday conversations and this helps to increase their vocabulary. Stories with repeated phrases help to reinforce language development.

- Involve children in the story by inviting them to join in saying repeated phrases.
- Run your fingers under the words as you read. This will teach them that you read top to bottom, left to right.

Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

When children are fully engaged in any activity there is great potential for learning. We can help young children become confident learners by

- Providing play activities which foster curiosity and engagement.
- Using predictive questions like “what might be at the end of the piece of rope?” This is an effective way to develop children’s thinking, predicting and problem-solving skills.
- Encouraging children to share their ideas - allow children to be the problem solvers. Children will thrive when given the opportunity to investigate and come up with an answer.
- Respond to children’s learning by offering encouragement and additional ideas.

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @ thelittlebigbookclub.com.au





Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



Song

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat

Gently down the stream

Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily

Life is but a dream

Row, row, row your boat,

Gently to the shore,

If you see a lion there,

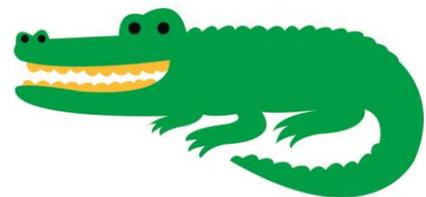
Don't forget to roar!

Row, row, row your boat

Gently down the stream

If you see a crocodile

Don't forget to scream – AAAGGH!



This well-known rhyme is a fun way for children to explore how 'push-pull' interactions work. Encourage children to sing this song in pairs, sit facing one another and hold hands.



Before Reading

Introduce the story by showing the cover, reading the title and author names.

- You might like to have a prop bag read with a long rope inside it. Slowly pull out the rope and encourage children to pass the rope around, pulling more and more length of rope. At the end of the rope have a laminated card with a question mark on it.
- Invite children to make predictions about what they might think will be hiding at the end of the piece of rope in the story.
- You could record these on a whiteboard or butchers' paper to revisit at the end of the story.

During Reading

- As each animal offers to help the little girl in the story you might like to pause to ask children what is the name animals is and what noise does it make?
- Emphasize the action words - *pull*, *tug*, *humphff* and *heave*. – Make time for children to join in and say the action words and get up and practice the action.
- Throughout the story you can ask children if they have any new ideas of what they think is at the end of the rope. Are their predictions changing? Add new predictions to the list
- Who's at the end of the rope? Lion! Encourage everyone to roar loudly like a lion.

After Reading

- Ask why was Lion at the end of the rope?
- Make new predictions about what is at the end of the rope in the clouds.
- Discuss how the animals all worked together to pull the rope. Why do we need people to help us sometimes? See if the children can think of any examples of when they have worked together to help someone.
- Words such as please and thank you are used a lot in the story. Discuss why these words are important.
- Play a game of jump rope like the animals.

Song

Leo the lion

*Leo the lion is the king of the jungle, his jaw is big and wide, **ROAR!***

*Leo the lion when he roars, warning you'd better run and hide, **ROAR!***

*Leo the lion is the king of the jungle, his jaw is big and wide, **ROAR!***

Leo the lion when he roars, warning you'd better run and hide,

Better run and hide,

*Better run and hide **ROAR!***





Activity Time

Rope Ornament

A perfect activity for fine motor skills and concentration.

What you need

- Short sticks or twigs (3 per child) Pop sticks will work if you cannot find sticks or twigs.
- Thin rope or wool in various colours cut into 20 cm lengths
- Scissors
- Masking tape* optional



What to do:

1. Take 3 sticks of roughly the same size and make a triangle shape.
2. At each corner tie the sticks together with some rope/wool to secure the triangle into shape. Tie one end of some wool around a stick then weave the rest of the length around the triangle shape. Repeat with other colours. **use masking tape if needed.
3. Make a loop handle with a short piece of wool and attach to the top of the triangle.
4. Display your 'rope' ornaments

Extension Activities:

- Lay a rope on the ground in a zig zag pattern and get the children to walk following the zig zag. Try the rope in a straight line and children can walk along the rope like a tightrope. Encourage them to hold out their arms for balance. Ask which rope pattern they found easiest to follow.
- Place a line of rope on the floor so there is an even amount of space on either side and see how many ways the children can go over the 'rope'. Movements to try include - jump, walk across, hop, crawl.
- Set up a string of rope and have pegs for children to hang items onto it. Have a basket of different materials, fabrics, paper, feathers or anything light weight for children to peg onto the rope like washing line.
- Give children a length of wool and encourage them to make the letter of their first name out of it. You could demonstrate how to make the letter first. You can write the letter in glue onto a piece of paper and children can practise by following the glue line.



STEM | Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

Throughout the story there is a lot of pulling on the rope. This provides the opportunity to discuss the physics concepts of force and motion.

First, connect motion to what the children already know. Ask them, "How do we move?" Have children raise their hands and demonstrate. Next, drop a stuffed animal on the ground. Ask students, "How can I make the stuffed animal move?" They will think about their past experiences with moving objects to derive an answer. Then, explain that a push and a pull are both forces. Force makes an object move or stop moving. When we push something, we are moving it away from us. When we pull something, we are moving it closer to us. (*Act out motions with students: push = palms out, push away from body, and pull = two fists on top of each other, pull toward body.*)

To extend this idea you could make a simple pulley with a bucket and a rope. The following link has a fun letter recognition game incorporated into the rope pulley.

<https://funlearningforkids.com/learning-letters-with-a-rope-pulley-alphabet-activity/>



Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For some more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **How Big is Too Small?** by Jane Godwin & Andrew Joyner
- **Journey** by Aaron Becker
- **Whale in the Bath** by Kylie Westaway & Tom Jellet

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (wave)

say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

to all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!

