

USBORNE VERY FIRST READING: BOOK 10



# Late Night at the Zoo



Mairi Mackinnon  
Illustrated by John Joven



Usborne Very First Reading has been developed in consultation with literacy specialists Alison Kelly and Anne Washtell of Roehampton University, London.

Each book contains:

- a **story** that children will love to read
- fun **puzzles** to reinforce new skills
- **guidance notes** on reading with your child.

Further help and support for parents and teachers can be found on the Very First Reading website,  
[www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)



# Late Night at the Zoo

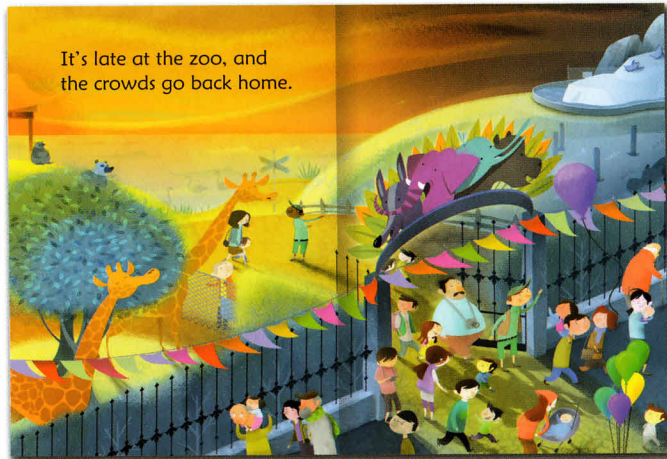


Written by Mairi Mackinnon

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## How this book works

The story of **Late Night at the Zoo** has been written for your child to read with your help. Encourage your child to read as much as they can, helping to sound out the words if they get stuck.



There are puzzles after the story, and for these you will need to read the instructions to your child.

You can find out more about helping your child with this book, and with reading in general, on pages 30-31.

# Late Night at the Zoo



Turn the page to start the story.



It's late at the zoo, and  
the crowds go back home.







But do you suppose  
that we just sit and moan?



Not us! We need no  
excuse for a tune.



Oh, we do like a sing-song  
under the moon.



It's late at the zoo, but  
these snakes are awake.





“Shall we play a game?  
Let us chase, you escape.”







It's late at the zoo.  
See the big gum trees?



These baboons have  
set up a flying trapeze.

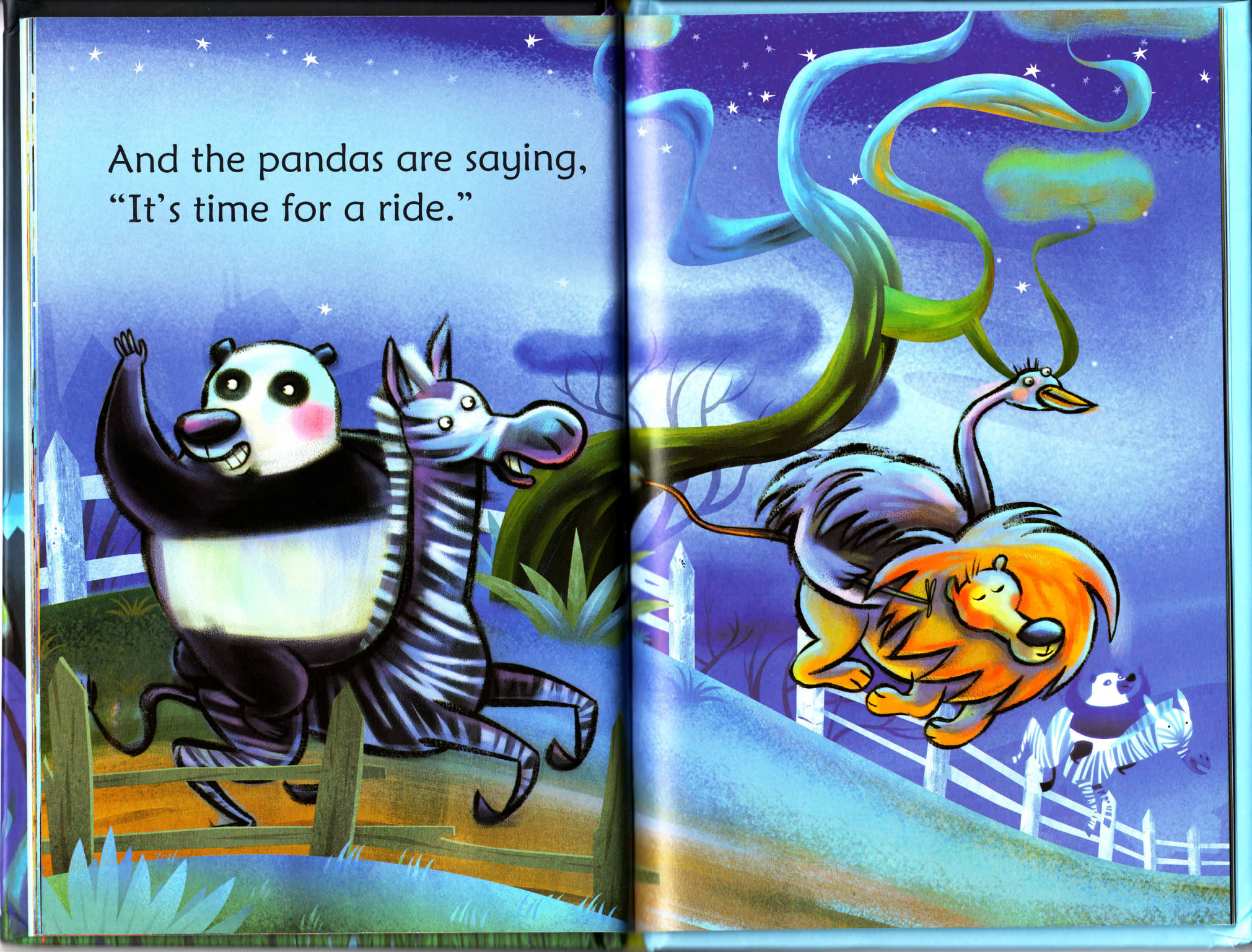


It's late at the zoo.  
Soon the zebras arrive.





And the pandas are saying,  
“It’s time for a ride.”







And we gallop around,  
until we collide.





Then you see,  
in the daytime,  
we just sleep inside.





## Puzzle 1

What is it? Choose the right description for each picture.

1.



- A It's a sing-song.
- B It's a game of ping-pong.

2.



- A It's a game.
- B It's a picture frame.

3.



- A It's a cooling breeze.
- B It's a flying trapeze.

4.



- A It's time for a ride.
- B It's time for the slide.



## Puzzle 2

Choose the right word to complete each phrase.

1.



The crowds go back .....

hole

home

hope

2.



These ..... are awake.

shakes

stakes

snakes

3.



..... the zebras arrive.

Noon

Moon

Soon

4.



We just ..... inside.

sheep

sleep

steep



# Puzzle 3

The words on the left are all in the story.  
Can you find their opposites on the right?

day	over
under	leave
awake	night
arrive	forward
back	asleep

## Answers to puzzles

### Puzzle 1

1. A It's a sing-song.
2. A It's a game.
3. B It's a flying trapeze.
4. A It's time for a ride.

### Puzzle 2

1. The crowds go back home.
2. These snakes are awake.
3. Soon the zebras arrive.
4. We just sleep inside.

### Puzzle 3

day	→	night
under	→	over
awake	→	asleep
arrive	→	leave
back	→	forward



## Guidance notes

Usborne Very First Reading is a series of books, specially developed for children who are learning to read. **Late Night at the Zoo** is the tenth book in the series, and by this stage your child should be able to read the story alone, with occasional help from you.

The story of **Late Night at the Zoo** introduces the following spelling patterns:



These are sometimes referred to as “the magic e” – it can be a tricky concept at first (one letter-sound changes because of another letter later in the word), but words spelled in this way tend to be pronounced very consistently. Later books in the series gradually introduce more spelling patterns, while reinforcing the ones your child already knows.

You’ll find lots more information about the structure of the series, advice on helping your child with reading, extra practice activities and games on the Very First Reading website,\* [www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)

\*US readers go to [www.veryfirstreading.com](http://www.veryfirstreading.com)

## Some questions and answers

- **Why do I need to read with my child?**

Sharing stories makes reading an enjoyable and fun activity for children. It also helps them to develop confidence and stamina. Even if you are not taking an active part in reading, your listening and support are very important.

- **When is a good time to read?**

Choose a time when you are both relaxed, but not too tired, and there are no distractions. Only read for as long as your child wants to – you can always try again another day.

- **What if my child gets stuck?**

Don’t simply read the problem word yourself, but prompt your child and try to find the right answer together. Similarly, if your child makes a mistake, go back and look at the word together. Don’t forget to give plenty of praise and encouragement.

- **We’ve finished, now what do we do?**

It’s a good idea to read the story several times to give your child more practice and more confidence. Then, when your child is ready, you can go on to the next book in the series, **Wild School**.





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Designed by Caroline Spatz



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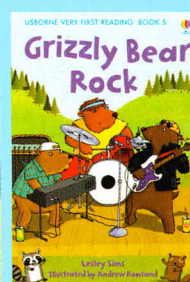
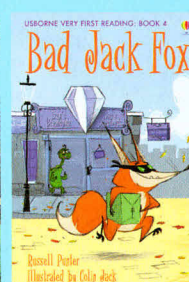
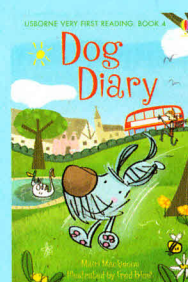
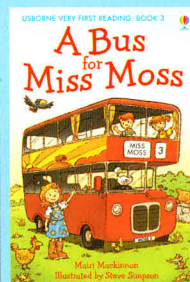
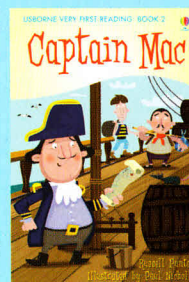
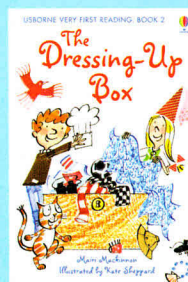
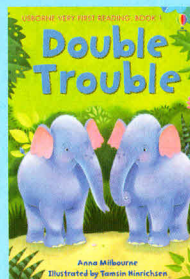
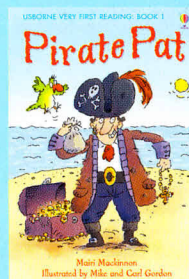
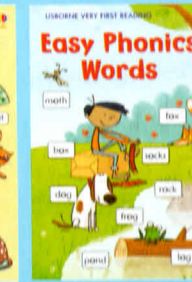
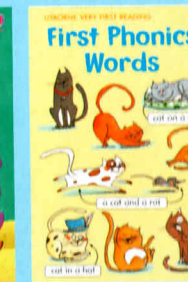
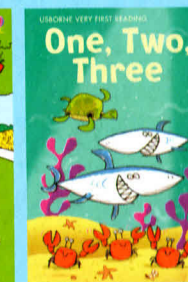
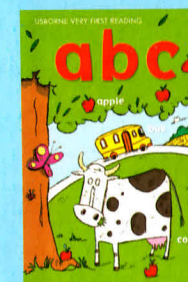
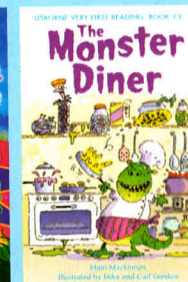
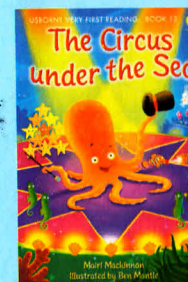
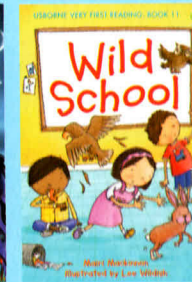
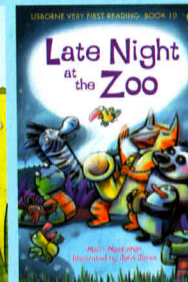
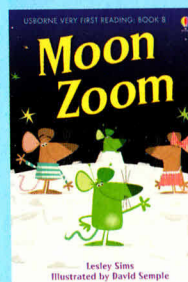
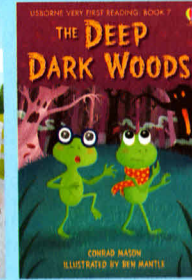
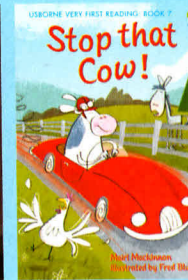
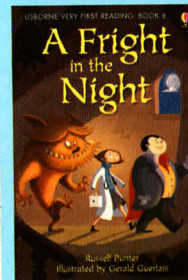
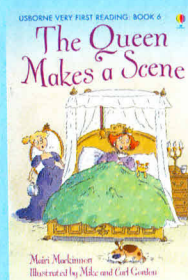
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## USBORNE VERY FIRST READING

There are over thirty titles in the Usborne Very First Reading series, which has been specially developed to help children learn to read. Here are some of them.

To find out more about the structure of the series, go to  
[www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)





# Late Night at the Zoo

**Late Night at the Zoo** is part of the **Usborne Very First Reading** series which has been specially developed to help children learn to read. Each book in the series introduces new letters or reading patterns, and reinforces material from previous books.

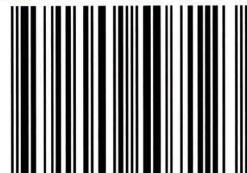
Designed for an adult and child to read together, the series combines lively rhyming stories with inspiring illustrations in order to build the skills and confidence that will encourage a lifelong enjoyment of reading.



Find out about all the titles available at  
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