



AUTHOR

Jon is an American author and illustrator, who has written over 30 children's books, many of which have won awards. He lives in San Francisco and travels across the country visiting schools and sometimes around the world.

WEBSITE

www.jonagee.com

LINKS

Short introduction/trailer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egzH_nD9OxM

Jon Agee reads My Rhinoceros

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnaHXmF9fY>

Publisher's resource page includes an interview with Jon and a teacher's resource designed to deepen comprehension skills and response to the text

<https://scallywagpress.com/resources.html>

Facts About Rhinos, WWF film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miSL3yX28fc>



MY RHINOCEROS

Younger Children Shortlist 2023

INTRODUCTION

Jon has been described as a master of the **absurd** and praised for his use of simple words and pictures to tell some amazing stories. Here the premise of having a rhinoceros for a pet seems somewhat ridiculous – I mean, what could a rhinoceros possibly do?!

The book is likely to start conversations about pets in general and **exotic pets** in particular – a good opportunity to check that your child or children understand the difference between domesticated and exotic pets.

ACTIVITIES

Read: Help your child or children to collect some facts about rhinos from books or online. Where in the world do they come from, how big are they, what do they eat? Are they endangered? The WWF film is a great place to start.

Illustrate or Write: If your child/children could choose any exotic animal as a pet, what would it be? Ask them to draw a picture of their chosen pet and make a list of what they think they would need to look after it. Can they think of any problems or challenges there might be? Or write a Rhino Acrostic Poem.

Make: A rhino mask <https://maskspot.com/download/rhino-mask/> Create a diorama showing a rhino (or another chosen animal) in their natural habitat <https://www.generationgenius.com/activities/habitats-activity-for-kids/> or the interior of an exotic pets shop.

NOW READ ON

The Pet: Cautionary Tales for Children and Grown-ups by Catherine Emmett & David Tazzyman (Macmillan Children's Books, 2021)

Be careful what you wish for, especially if it's a gorilla and you don't look after it properly!

Last by Nicola Davies (Tiny Owl Publishing, 2020)

A poignant and uplifting picture book about a rhino in captivity who craves the colour and familiar smells and sights of his home.