



We're Off! The Animals' Bustling Life After Work

A Full English translation is available.

動物們下班啦！意想不到的熱鬧生活

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We're Off! The Animals' Bustling Life After Work offers a playful new way to explore animal behavior—one curious stop at a time. Guided by Prickly the Hedgehog, a roving special correspondent, readers meet 59 different animals and discover what they do “after work.” From mealtime rituals to travel, shelter, and surprising daily habits, the book reveals fascinating details of animal life.

Can you guess which parrot is the smartest? Do you know who cares for the chicks in a penguin family? Have you ever seen how a whale sleeps?

Blending lively, humorous dialogue with fascinating ecological facts, this book reveals animals' unique skills and little-known secrets in a way that feels effortless and fun. With engaging scenarios, irresistible animal trivia, and interactive games, it delights both children and adults—making it a perfect introduction to learning about animals with curiosity and care. It turns learning into a joyful game of discovery.



Author **Yi-Ting Lee**

A graduate of the Cambridge School of Art, Yi-Ting Lee enjoys using gentle brushstrokes and rich colors to tell small, heartfelt stories. She strives to create inspiring, fun books that offer children a joyful reading experience. Lee works with various media, from collage to watercolor. Her only rule is to have no rules. Her published picture books include *Mr White*, *An Ideal Zoo*, *Mr White in Love*, *Let's Play Again*, and *An Invitation Letter*.

The Pleasure of Asking “Why?”: A Delightful, Fresh Way to Learn Animal Behavior

by Yi Chin Lan

(originally published on OKAPI.BOOKS.COM.TW)

Most science-themed picture books fall into one of two categories: those that are information-heavy and explanation-driven, and those that use storytelling to convey knowledge, often supported by an appendix. *We're Off! The Animals' Bustling Life After Work* takes a refreshing third approach. Grounded in science education, it uses the idea of life “after work” to explore animal behavior. At each stop visited by Prickly the Hedgehog, the roving special correspondent—whether an animal’s home or a place it visits—a new scenario unfolds. The following page pairs the scene with a knowledge section, where thoughtfully crafted dialogue naturally prompts readers to ask, “Why?”

For example, on a first read, readers don’t yet know how the book

will present its information. At the first stop, “The Shy New Colleague Comes for Dinner,” they may wonder: Why is the raccoon washing its hands for so long? Why is the red panda so shy? Turning the page provides the answers in a perfectly timed reveal.

While Prickly’s visits are humorous and relaxed, every line of dialogue or self-talk from the animal colleagues is deliberately teasing, designed to spark curiosity. When the reader reaches the knowledge page, the answers don’t interrupt the story; instead, they deliver a pleasurable “Aha!” moment.

If the scenarios and information were placed on the same page, the layout would feel crowded; if everything were saved for the back, flipping back and forth would be inconvenient and

easy to forget. This front-and-back page structure provides a smooth reading rhythm, allowing readers to treat each knowledge page as the wrap-up or conclusion before following Prickly to the next adventure.

Author Yi-Ting Lee also tucks small Easter eggs into the illustrations, adding a playful “spy vs. spy” thrill as readers explore. One subtle example appears between stops: on the raccoon’s television screen, two helmeted animals in battle look deliberately blurred into pangolins—could this be a clue to the next destination? Turn the page, and bingo! At every stop, readers can hunt for these hints—some obvious, some cleverly hidden—and the faster they spot them, the greater the sense of accomplishment.

During our interview with the editor and Yi-Ting Lee, the editor shared that in early discussions she suggested strengthening the connections among the ten stops. Lee’s solution was to sneak the next stop’s animal into the current illustration. These understated, unannounced Easter eggs are one of the book’s greatest added joys, encouraging readers to slow down and notice the little surprises along the way.

This book features 59 animals, all drawn from a large pool the author initially assembled. The editors helped

categorize them and recommended avoiding repetitive animal types or scenes, while leaving the final selection to the author. Animals not included in this volume are teased on the copyright page as a preview of the next installment. Even that step alone was a massive undertaking.

For Lee, organizing and writing the book was a joy—and a challenge. The abundance of animal knowledge was exciting, but the sheer volume and diversity of information also raised the level of difficulty. Creating this book was not only a breakthrough in topic selection; it was also about maintaining fun while ensuring solid knowledge. This balance, carefully explored in this work, will likely serve as new inspiration for the author’s next book.

This essay has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.

*Yi Chin Lan loves reading and adores children. Lan aspires to retain a childlike heart and sense of fun. She is the founding editor of a popular social media site *Picture Book Planet 212-7*. With more than 32,000 followers, the site offers recommendations for books that encourage creativity and imagination.*



The Sixth Stop:
The New Zealand Reunion

The kiwi bird invited their fellow New Zealander, the kakapo, over to their place.

Our home country is a beautiful place with no natural predators, so it doesn't matter even if we can't fly.

Is that why you don't have wings?

Kakapo, are you not staying for cake?

No, thank you! I hear the call of a handsome guy in the distance, so I'm making a move!

Kiwi

My little brother should come out and play with me soon.

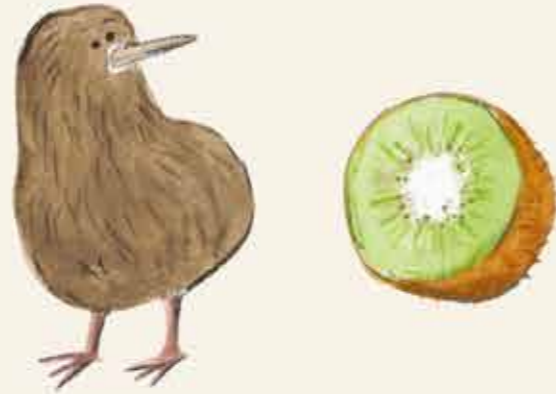
Dad is incubating the egg right now. It'll take about 80 days to hatch.

Kakapo

Kiwi

Can they really be called a bird if they don't have wings? What do you think? There are five species of kiwis, with lifespans ranging from 15–100 years.

Although I share the same name with the kiwi fruit, please don't eat me! I'm an endangered animal!



You can't escape!

Their long beaks help them get to delicious worms underground.



Kakapo

Although they have wings, they can't fly and can only walk. They're birds with long lifespans—they can live up to around 100 years!


They love eating rimu fruit, which is native to New Zealand and contains lots of vitamin D that helps improve their breeding rate.

The needle-thin feathers on their faces might have something to do with their sense of touch—it helps them walk around at night and avoid thorny plants.

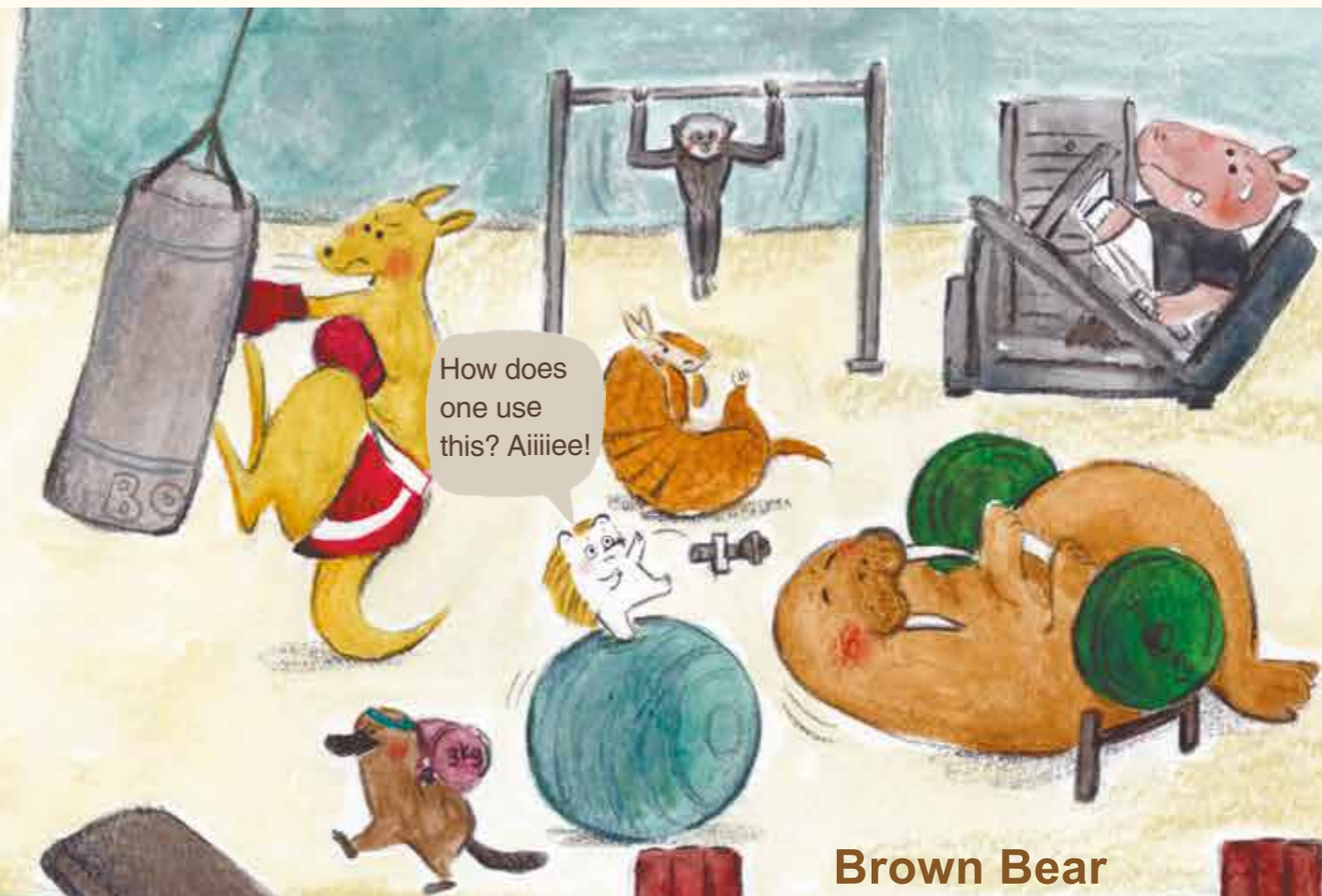
Males make a low chirping sound to attract females.



24HR
GYM

 The Seventh Stop: The Sweaty Gym

The gym is absolutely packed!
Who are these fitness enthusiasts?



How does one use this? Aiiiiiee!

Icelandic Horse



Ever since I left Iceland, I've not been back again... I miss home so much!

Brown Bear



Let's hurry and finish up this gym session—I can't wait to tuck into my salmon feast!

I can't stand up straight because of my hind legs, but I'm the best at doing squats!

Gorilla

