



# Jungle Expedition

## Classroom Guide

*Every layer of the jungle holds a different kind of wonder*

**CASEL Competency:** Responsible Decision-Making

**Grade Level:** Pre-K–2

**Duration:** 40–50 minutes

**Category:** Adventure

## Learning Objectives

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- Discover that different environments (layers) hold different surprises
  - Learn that the jungle teaches listening, looking, and moving carefully
  - Understand that rainstorms pass and reveal hidden beauty (waterfalls)
  - Practice sensory observation — what you hear, see, smell, and feel
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## Overview & Preparation

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### Key Vocabulary

Jungle • Canopy • Expedition • Layer • Parrot • Monkey • Waterfall • Rainstorm • Vine • Symphony

### Materials Needed

- The personalized story
- Green fabric or paper for a "jungle"
- Percussion instruments or noisemakers
- Paper and crayons
- Optional: nature sounds recording

## Before Reading

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### Connection Question

*If you walked into a thick, green jungle, what sounds do you think you'd hear?*

### Background Building

The jungle has layers, like a building — the dark floor where insects crawl, the middle where monkeys swing, and the top canopy where parrots fly and sunlight breaks through. In this story, the hero explores every layer, makes animal friends along the way, gets caught in a RAINSTORM (which reveals a secret waterfall), and finally hears the whole jungle playing a symphony of sounds together.

## During Reading — Pause Points

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- **When the hero enters the jungle and it's dark and unfamiliar** — The jungle looks overwhelming at first. But the hero keeps going. What do you do when something new feels a little scary?
- **When the rainstorm hits** — Rain everywhere! But wait — what appears BEHIND the rain? Sometimes the storm reveals the hidden treasure.
- **When the hero hears the jungle symphony — all sounds together** — Close your eyes and listen. Every creature is playing its part. What does your neighborhood sound like when all the sounds play together?

## Discussion Questions

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1. The jungle has layers — floor, middle, canopy. Each holds different creatures and surprises. What are the "layers" of your school?

↳ What do you find at each layer of your environment?

2. The rainstorm seemed like a bad thing but revealed a hidden waterfall. How can something difficult lead to something beautiful?

↳ Tell about a time something hard turned into something good.

3. The hero had to listen carefully to hear all the jungle sounds. What do we miss when we don't listen?

↳ What's the most interesting thing you can hear right now if you really try?

4. Every creature in the jungle plays a part in the "symphony." How is our classroom like a symphony?

↳ What instrument or sound are YOU in our class symphony?

## Facilitation Tips

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Engage all the senses. Play jungle sounds while reading. Let children close their eyes during the rainstorm section. This is a story about immersive experience.

## Emotional Payoff

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*The jungle that seemed dark and overwhelming reveals itself layer by layer — each one more wondrous than the last. The rainstorm isn't a setback; it's the curtain that opens on a hidden waterfall. And when the hero finally LISTENS, every creature is playing together in one beautiful symphony.*

## After Reading Activities

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### Jungle Layers Mural

Duration: 15 min | Materials: Large paper, green paint, animal cutouts

Create a class jungle mural with three layers: floor (insects, ferns), middle (monkeys, snakes), canopy (parrots, butterflies, sunlight). Each child adds one creature to the right layer.

### Classroom Jungle Symphony

Duration: 15 min | Materials: Percussion instruments, body sounds, voices

Assign each child a jungle sound: rain (fingers on desk), monkey (oooh!), bird (whistle), frog (ribbit), wind (shhhh). Start with one sound. Add layers until the whole class is playing together. THIS is a symphony. Discuss: what happens when one part is missing?

### Sensory Expedition Walk

Duration: 10 min | Materials: Clipboards, paper, pencils

Take an "expedition" around the school. At each stop, record: "I see \_\_\_\_\_. I hear \_\_\_\_\_. I smell \_\_\_\_\_. I feel \_\_\_\_\_." Return and share: what did you discover that you usually miss when you're rushing?

## Writing Prompts

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- You're deep in the jungle. Describe what you see, hear, smell, and feel. Use all your senses.
- Draw the secret waterfall behind the rainstorm. What does it look like? What's behind it?
- Write about which jungle layer you'd want to live in and why.

## Home Connection

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### Family Letter

Dear Families,

Today we read "Jungle Expedition," about exploring the rainforest layer by layer. Your child discovered that listening carefully, observing closely, and weathering the "rainstorm" reveals hidden wonders. We created a class jungle symphony where every child was one voice in the music.

Here is how you can continue this learning at home:

- Go on a sensory walk: stop, close your eyes, and list 3 things you hear
- Create a family "symphony" where each person makes a different sound. Layer them together.
- Watch a rainforest documentary clip and count how many creatures you can spot

With warmth,

Your Child's Teacher

### Related Books

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- The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry
- We're Roaming in the Rainforest by Laurie Krebs
- The Umbrella by Jan Brett
- Slowly, Slowly, Slowly, Said the Sloth by Eric Carle