

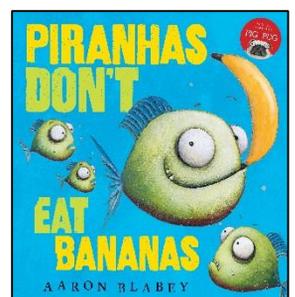


Piranhas Don't Eat Bananas

Written and illustrated by
Aaron Blabey

1 – Introducing the book

- Look at one of the illustrations of the piranha fish. Do they look like friendly animals? What do you notice about them? Draw attention to the piranhas' sharp triangular teeth. Before reading the story, share some piranha facts with children:
 - Piranhas live in rivers in South America, in the rainforest – why not look on a world map to see where that is?
 - The word 'piranha' means 'fish tooth' – and piranhas' teeth are razor sharp!
 - Piranhas' jaws are so strong that they can crush a human hand in 5-10 seconds!
 - Like sharks, piranhas can sense when there is blood in the water, and quickly come to find out what's for dinner!
 - Groups of piranhas are known as 'shoals'. In a shoal of piranhas, there can be 1000 fish.



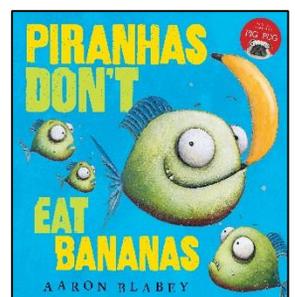


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1 – Introducing the book

- Ask children what their favourite food is. Talk about what it's like to try new foods, and agree that sometimes you have to try them several times before you're sure if you like them. Explain that in this story, one of the piranha fish is trying to persuade his friends to try something new.
- Provide a series of pictures of different animals, and see if children can sort them into those which eat meat, those which mainly eat plants and those which eat both.
- Why not create a greengrocers shop in your role play area, for lots of opportunities to weigh out different fruit and vegetables?





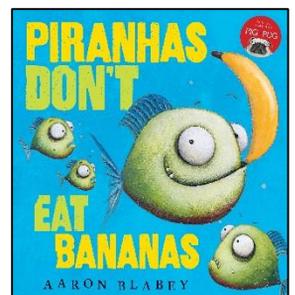
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2 – Yummy, scrummy in my
tummy

- Draw attention to the rhymes in the story, like banana/piranha, silverbeet/feet, plums/bums. Show the names of some other foods and body parts. Can children read the words and find the matching rhyme? Explain that often rhyming words end with the same letter string. Examples could be: cheese/knees, leek/cheek, bread/head, pies/eyes, chips/lips, mash/ eyelash, hair/pear. Children could practise retelling sections from the story using their rhyming substitutes. For example: “Hey there guys, would you like some chips?”/”What’s wrong with you, Brian? We eat lips.”
- Draw an outline of a human body on a piece of card and divide it into six: two legs, two arms, the head and the torso. Draw a different number of dots on each piece to correspond with a number on a dice. Photocopy several times and then cut the pieces up. Put them face up in the middle of the table. Playing in small groups, children could take turns to roll a dice and collect the body part that matches the number they have rolled. If you roll a number for a body part you already have, then you have to wait for another turn next time. The winning piranha is the first one who completes a whole body.





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3 – Five a day

- This story provides a great context for exploring healthy eating and the importance of having five a day. Give children a chance to taste a range of different and more exotic fruits that they might not have tried before, such as passion fruit, papaya or star fruit. Encourage children to use all their senses to describe the way these fruits look, smell and feel as well as taste. They could do some observational drawing of the fruit or a cross section of it, perhaps using pastels or chalks.
- Show children some tricks Brian could try to make the fruit look more appealing to the other piranhas. Spread a little fruit flavoured fromage frais on a digestive biscuit base to make a fruity face. Then add blueberries for eyes, a slice of plum for a mouth and a piece of pineapple for a nose. You could also make apple smiles: first squeeze some lemon juice over slices of red-skinned apple to stop them going brown. Then smear a thin layer of fromage frais on one of the slices as before. Add small, white marshmallows to be the teeth and then sandwich another apple slice on the top, with the red skin facing forward to be the lips. Alternatively, simply provide a paper plate and different slices of fruit and encourage children to make their own fruit faces.

