



If I Ran the Circus

As You Read the Book:

Prepare a list of sight words from the book, and as you read the book, they can discover those words. For younger kids, maybe you can let them lasso the word - well, land the lasso on the word as they see it. You can make a lasso with yarn or maybe use one of those tiny bubble blowers that come with the party favor bubble bottles :)

Discuss rhyme and reason! :) What words were newly made-up to help with rhyming? And what common words were just changed a bit to help with the rhyming? For example: myself changed to *mysolf* to rhyme with Rolf/golf.

Take turns reading it out aloud - tongue twisters make it a total riot.

After You Read the Book:

Discussion Questions:

Have you seen any place where you might find strange things like described in the book? What was the place and what did you see there?

Have you been to a circus? What was the most interesting act you saw there?

If you ran the circus, what would it be like? What would you do? (Or it could also be a choice of place - like the zoo, the library, the school, or even the nation)

Points to Ponder: Can any creature have teeth weighing 60 pounds each? What creature do you think has the heaviest teeth? Or some other point to ponder from the book!

Rhyming games:

Pick a word or two from the book, and come up with rhyming words for it. Make it a team competition event maybe!

Make up your own creatures and write a short rhyme using that made-up creature name. If you love elephants and a platypus, then the creature could be a elephantapus who drives the school bus, and his best friend is a dogapotamus.

Or maybe it is a purple cat-like creature called a purplitty who dances to a ditty, and always says something witty, this purplitty that is plenty pretty.

Activities:

Illustrating:

Materials Needed

1. Paper
2. Pencils to draw and color

Activity

Pick any of the animals mentioned in the book. How would you imagine it looked? Draw and color it

Pick any of those creatures you made up in rhyming games. How would you imagine it looked? Draw and color it

Other Links and Resources:

Here are a few links and resources already existing that you can use:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/If-I-ran-the-Circus-by-Dr-Seuss-Activity-2401785>

A fun poem to read and then attempt to write a similar poem -

<http://gottabook.blogspot.com/2007/05/oddaptation-if-i-ran-circus-if-i-ran.html>

And of course, [Seussville](#) has many activities and games across Dr.Seuss books. While I could not find one in specific for this book, there are many we can adapt to this one.

A wonderful paper craft from FirstPalette can be found [here](#) with printable templates

