



Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide

Title: *Rules of the Wild: An Unruly Book of Manners*

Author: Bridget Levin

Illustrator: Amanda Shepherd

**Publisher and
Copyright Date:** Chronicle Books, 2004

**Connection to
Minnesota:** Minnesota author

Summary: This is a story about rules that compares proper behavior for animals in the wild with the rules human parents have for their children. For example, raccoons dunk their food and cows chew with their mouths open, but polite children aren't allowed to do these things.

Suggested ages: 4-6, 7-10

Tips for Reading:

- Read the rules when they appear on the page, showing “the don’ts” that are crossed out.
- Point out details in the illustrations that highlight a rule being broken.
- Exaggerate the rhyming at the end of each section. “...or your father a **mane**...might not be such a **pain**.”

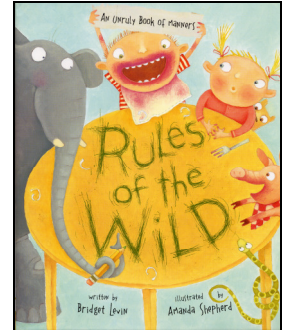
**Questions
before reading:**

- What is a rule?
- What are some examples of rules that you have at home? At school?
- What happens when you don't follow the rules?
- Do you think animals have rules too?

**To Introduce
this story say:** If you and your parents were animals, you might behave differently. Let's take a look at a funny story that shows how the rules for animals and children are different.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- Which of these rules do you follow at home? At school?
- If you have pets, what rules do you have for them?
- What new rules would you like to make up? Who should follow those rules?
- What would your parents say about those rules?



RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Art:**
- Create a mask of the animal you would most like to be.
- Culture:**
- Talk about different rules that different cultures have. Why are they different?
- Dramatization:**
- Act out some of the rules as the story is reread.
- Science:**
- Talk about why the rules of the wild are appropriate for the animals that follow them.
- Writing:**
- Write about a rule you have now and why you think it shouldn't be followed.
 - Write a new series of lines in the same style as in the book, using the same rhyme sequence to describe an animal's rules.
- Suggestions for English Language Learners:**
- Use the chart at the back of the book to review who can do what. Flip back to the illustrations that show the actions to help children comprehend.
 - Make a chart of "rules" that children have in their homes. Discuss any that are unique or that may be cultural. Write individual children's names and yes/no for each rule.
- Related Books:**
- ***The Secret Knowledge of Grown-ups*** by David Wisniewski (HarperCollins, 2001)
 - ***My Dog Never Says Please*** by Suzanne Williams, illustrated by Tedd Arnold (Dial, 1997)
 - ***Excuse Me!*** By Lisa Kopelke (Simon & Schuster, 2003)
 - ***Please Say Please!: Penguin's Guide To Manners*** by Margery Cuyler, illustrated by Will Hillenbrand (Scholastic, 2004)
 - ***This Little Piggy's Book of Manners*** by Katheryn Madeline Allen, illustrated by Nancy Wolff (Holt, 2003)
 - ***Manners*** by Alike (Greenwillow, 1990)
 - ***Perfect Pigs: An Introduction to Manners*** by Marc Brown, illustrated by Stephen Krensky (Little, Brown, 1983)

