

# Beyond the Book...

**Title: Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears**

**Author: Verna Aardema**

**Summary: A little mosquito tries to share a story with an Iguana. The iguana is so annoyed by the mosquito that he walks off with sticks in his ears. The iguana's reaction to being annoyed sets off a chain reaction of events in the animal kingdom, which leads to the fate of all mosquitoes.**



## ***Before Reading...***

Ask questions to use what your child already knows to help him/her understand and enjoy book:

- Has something ever annoyed you? What was it?
- Share a time when you felt misunderstood. How did you feel?
- What kind of animals do you think you would find in Africa?
- How does it feel to be blamed for something you did not do?

## ***During Reading...***

As you read the book talk with the child about the story and the illustrations. Ask questions such as:

- If you were in danger what would you do?
- [Illustration: Man smacks ear.] What do you think happened to the mosquito?
- Which came first- the crow warning that there was danger, or the monkey crashing through the tree tops?

## ***After Reading...***

- Cut out pictures of each of the animal in the story from magazines. Write out labels of each animal. Let your child match the printed name of the animal to the picture.
- Play a follow the leader game. Pick animals from the book for the "leader" to act out. The followers must act like the animal just as the leader does.
- The illustrations in the book look a "little" like collages. Using construction paper have your child make collages of different animals or scenes in the book.
- Have your child write an alternate ending to the story. What do you think would happen if the mosquito did not hide in the story?

For additional activities visit [www.uwchatt.org](http://www.uwchatt.org) or call 423.752.0300.

*These activities provided by United Way's Project Ready for School initiative and created by students at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.*