

**1. Title:** *Me...Jane* by Patrick McDonnell  
New York, NY: Little, Brown, & Company, 2011

**2. Summary:**

*Me...Jane* tells the inspiring story of Jane Goodall following her dreams to study animals in Africa. The story begins with Jane Goodall as a child receiving her first monkey stuffed animal and ends as Goodall becomes the anthropologist she always wanted to be. The book details all the things that inspired Goodall to go to Africa. The beautiful illustrations and real drawings from Goodall's childhood bring the story to life for readers of all ages. The picture book includes a personal message from Goodall along with important biographical information on the last two pages of the story.

**3. Awards:**

- 2012 Caldecott Honor
- Booklist, The Horn Book, and Kirkus Review Starred Reviews
- New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book
- New York Times Notable Children's Book
- Booklist Editor's Choice Book
- Kirkus Reviews Best Book
- Kids' Indie Next List Book
- Bank Street College Children's Book Committee Outstanding Book
- Horn Book Fanfare Book
- Charlotte Zolotow Award Winner

**4. Reviews:**

- "This remarkable picture book is one of the few that speaks, in a meaningful way, to all ages." □ -*Booklist*, starred review
- "McDonnell's book is... inspirational." □ -*The Horn Book*, starred review
- "Children will appreciate McDonnell's original format and take heart that interests logged in their own diaries might turn into lifelong passions." □ -*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review
- "McDonnell's skill as a cartoonist enables him to express Goodall's joy, wonder and satisfaction with a simple stroke of the pen." □ -*New York Times*
- "[A] tender homage... engaging... an appealing and satisfying introduction to a well-known scientist and activist." □ -*School Library Journal*
- "McDonnell's concentration on [Goodall's] childhood fantasies carries a strong message to readers that their own dreams--even the wildly improbable ones--may be realizable, too." □ -*Publishers Weekly*

*Praise for Me...Jane.* (2014). Retrieved from  
<http://www.indiebound.org/book/9780316045469/patrick-mcdonnell/me-jane>

**5. Author's webpage:**

<http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/features/patrickmcdonnell/index.html>

**6. Author is also the illustrator**

## 7. Discussion Questions:

### a. Before

1. Do you have any big dreams?
2. Who inspires you to follow your dreams?
3. What is your favorite animal?

### b. During

1. Who do you think this story is about?
2. What are some things that Jane likes to do?
3. What made Jane dream of life in Africa?

### c. After

1. Who is this story actually about?
2. What is an interesting fact about Jane Goodall that you learned?
3. How can you make a positive impact in the world around you?

## 8. Activities:

### a. Reading/Oral Language:

1. Pair *Me...Jane* with a Tarzan book. This will allow students to understand how the Tarzan story inspired Jane Goodall to go to Africa. Students could compare the similarities and differences of the two books.

### b. Writing:

1. Have students write a letter detailing all of their dreams for the future and mail it to students before they graduate high school or have them keep it in a safe place until adulthood. When students open the letters as adults they can truly see if their dreams came true. Teachers could use the prompt on the website listed below.

**Source:** [https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/\\_b2c/media/assets/titles/a7166d58-3868-4661-bf70-0bcd76d0d35f/EG\\_9780316045469.pdf](https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/_b2c/media/assets/titles/a7166d58-3868-4661-bf70-0bcd76d0d35f/EG_9780316045469.pdf)

**c. Math:** Incorporate the math concept you are going to teach that day with facts and application questions on Africa and the students' researched animals.

### d. Science:

1. Have students research and create a creative representation of the primate of their choice. Once every student has finished collecting data, they could compare and contrast their findings as a class. It would be beneficial for students to compare their chosen primates to humans. Teachers could use the prompt on the website listed below.

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### **e. Social Studies**

1. Have students “dream travel” to anywhere in the world and create a poster, presentation, brochure, etc. all about it. Teachers could use the prompt on the website listed below.

**Source:** [https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/\\_b2c/media/assets/titles/a7166d58-3868-4661-bf70-0bcd76d0d35f/EG\\_9780316045469.pdf](https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/_b2c/media/assets/titles/a7166d58-3868-4661-bf70-0bcd76d0d35f/EG_9780316045469.pdf)

2. Encourage students to join a Roots and Shoots team.  
<http://www.janegoodall.org/youth-roots-shoots>

### **f. Art:**

1. Pick your favorite animal to study. Find out as much as you can about that animal and research all the things you love about that animal. Then, upon Jane Goodall’s request, create a puppet of your favorite animal to raise awareness for that animal. Have students watch the YouTube video for motivation.

**Source:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&NR=1&v=925xh0StffI&safe=active>

### **g. Drama:**

1. Have students perform a tableau in small groups about a cause that is important to them. After researching their chosen topic, students will create a “freeze frame” representing the cause.

### **h. Cooking:**

1. Have students bake something that people would eat from the country their favorite animal belongs to. If the animal of their choice lives in many countries, allow the students to pick which country they would like to bake something from.

### **i. Technology:**

1. Have students create a public service announcement about a cause that is important to them. Younger students could work in small groups but older students could do this project individually.

### **j. Music:**

1. Have students learn and research about the music of the culture in which their favorite animal is found. This music could be played while students work on their animal puppets or while they are cooking.

### **k. Physical Education:**

1. Students could climb a rope in gym class similar to the vines Jane swings from in the book.

## **9. Related Books**

1. *The Watcher: Jane Goodall’s Life with the Chimps* by Jeanette Winter
2. *National Geographic Kids Chapters: Ape Escapes!* by Aline Alexander Newman
3. *National Geographic Readers: Monkeys* by Anne Schreiber
4. *National Geographic Readers: Hang On Monkey!* by Susan B. Newman
5. *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss

## **10. Other Books Written by Patrick McDonnell**

1. *The Monsters' Monsters*
2. *Wag!*
3. *The Gift of Nothing*
4. *Hug Time*
5. *Just Like Heaven*
6. *South*
7. *Art*

## **11. Author is also the illustrator**

### **12. Websites**

1. National Geographic Kids provides a plethora of games, activities, videos, and research for any animal the students would want to research for their projects. It is a safe website for students to explore.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>

2. The New England Primate Conservancy website provides lesson ideas about monkeys for elementary teachers. The lessons focus on the importance of keeping monkeys in the wild instead of allowing them to be pets.

<http://www.neprimateconservancy.org/k-4-unit-1---lesson-2.html>

3. The National Education Association website has many lesson plans on the environment for students.

<http://www.nea.org/tools/EnvironmentalEducationActivitiesAndResources.html>