

# Movement and Action

The following Teacher Script versions of "The Crazy Critters" and "The Fish Tank" include movement and action directions which may be used if preparing readers for a more formal, elaborate performance of the story. These directions appear only in the Teacher Scripts. Disregard directions, if you have chosen a simpler readers approach.

## Color-Me Poster, Performance Program Cover, Theatre Ticket

Included with these scripts are black and white drawings which are meant to be colored by your students.

Duplicate the Color-Me Posters and ask each student to color them in any way he or she might like. The posters may also be used as publicity posters which can be posted around your school or library to publicize a reading performance of the story.

Program covers have been included to help you when planning a reading performance for an audience. Simply duplicate the program cover, copying as many as your audience will need. Fold duplicated sheets into program shape, and ask students to fill insides with the important details (cast list and reader names, synopsis of the story, director, etc.). Students may also color the front of each program. As audience members enter the room before the performance, ask student ushers to hand each a program.

If time allows, also duplicate the special theatre tickets and ask your students to color them. Cut out each ticket and make the tickets available to audience members a few days before the performance. Again, ask student ushers to collect the tickets as audience enters.

# The Crazy Critters

by Lois Walker

PRIMARY READERS

CAST OF SIX

TEACHER/NARRATOR

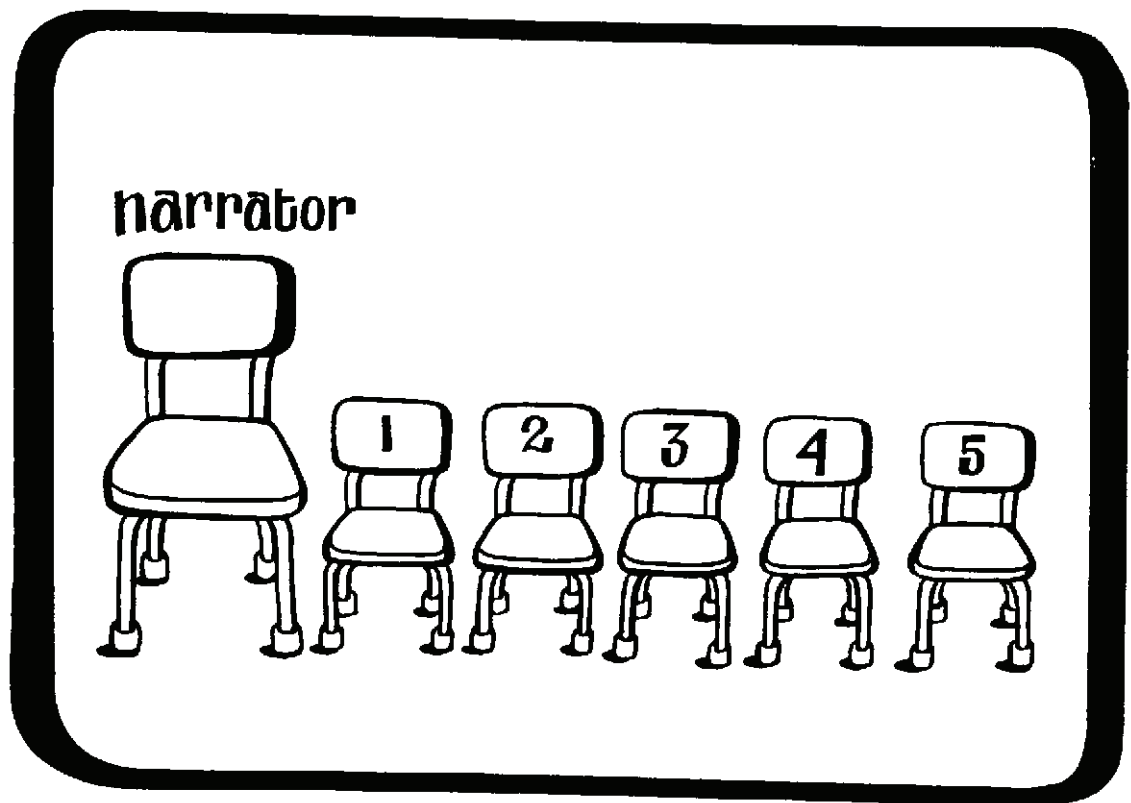
CHILD 1

CHILD 2

CHILD 3

CHILD 4

CHILD 5



Arrange one large chair and five small chairs, as shown

# Entrances

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## THE CRAZY CRITTERS

Teacher/Narrator enters, walks to large chair, faces audience, and says, "This looks like the right chair for me! I think I'll sit down and quietly read a crazy story while I wait."

CHILD 1 enters with folder open, pretending to read silently. CHILD 1 walks to proper chair, looks up and asks the teacher, "What are you doing Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_?" Teacher/Narrator looks up and says, "I'm reading a crazy story while I wait."

CHILDREN 2,3,4 enter with folders open, pretending to read silently. CHILDREN 2,3,4 walk to proper chairs, look up and ask, "What are you doing teacher?" Teacher/Narrator looks up and says, "We're reading crazy stories while we wait." CHILDREN 2,3,4 answer, "We will too!" They sit in proper chairs and also pretend to read silently.

CHILD 5 runs in with folder under arm and screeches to a halt just in front of proper chair. CHILD 5 says, "What are you all doing?" Teacher/Narrator and CHILDREN 1,2,3,4 look up and say in unison, "We're reading crazy stories while we wait!"

CHILD 5 says, "Who are you waiting for?" All answer, "YOU!"

CHILD 5 smiles at audience and sits. The reading begins.

# Vocabulary List

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## THE CRAZY CRITTERS

- camel: n. a beast of burden with a humped back, found in Asia 4  
llama: n. a camel-like but humpless beast of burden having white or brownish thick woolly hair, found in South America  
chimpanzee: n. an African ape having large ears and brown hair  
giraffe: n. the tallest of all animals, with a long neck and slender limbs, found in Africa  
kangaroo: n. an Australian marsupial with short, weak forelimbs and powerful hind limbs  
dinosaur: n. family of extinct reptiles, including the largest known land animals  
joey: n. a young animal, especially a young kangaroo

**NOTE:** The words surprised, amazed, dumbfounded, bewildered, and astonished are featured in this story.

**Color-me poster: —**

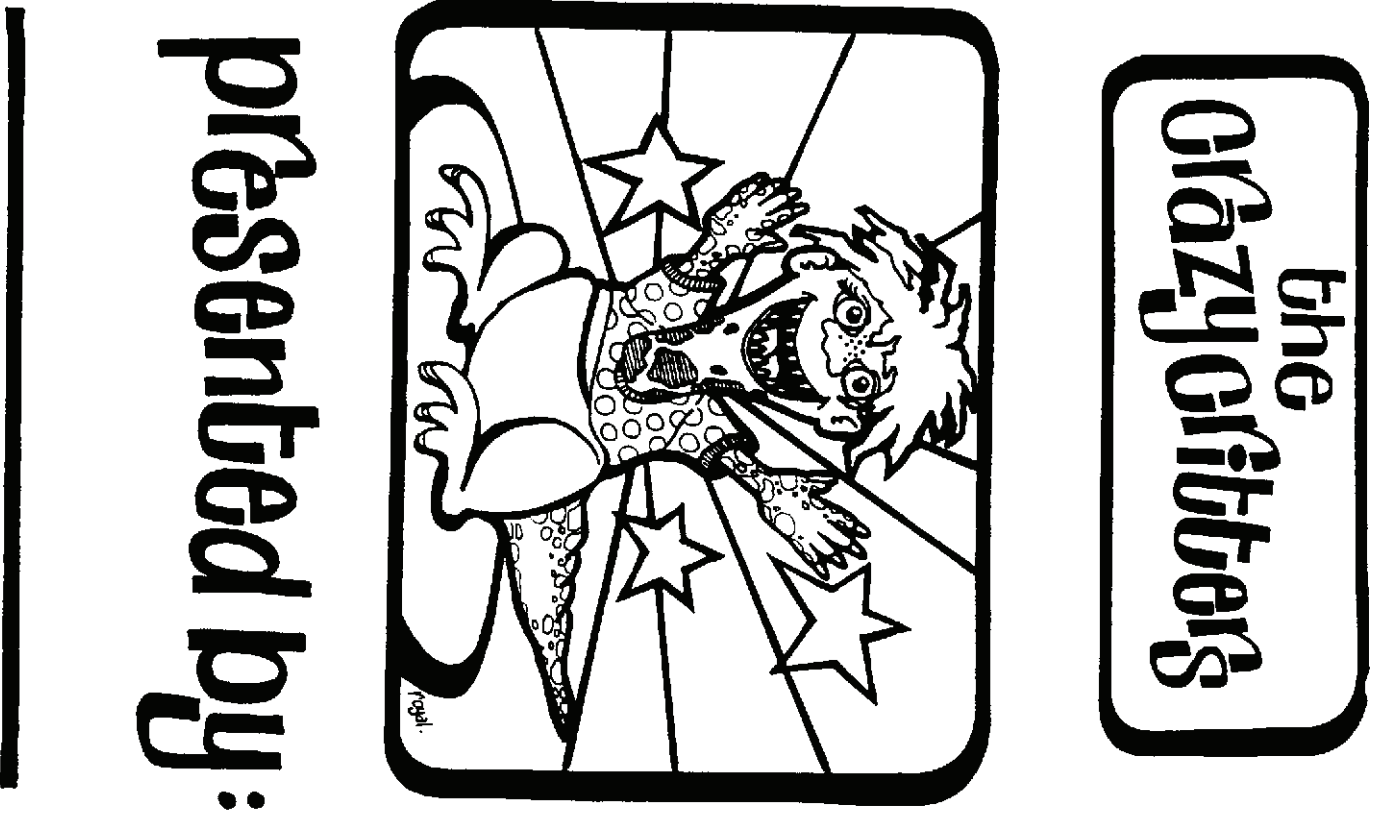


royal.



(ticket): ↗

(program cover): ↘



# THE CRAZY CRITTERS

by Lois Walker

## TEACHER SCRIPT

(PROPS OR COSTUME PIECES MAY BE USED AS EACH CHILD TAKES ROLE OF THE FUNNY OLD MAN. FOR EXAMPLE: STRANGE HAT, GLASSES WITH FALSE NOSE, AND WALKING CANE. AS READING BEGINS, PROPS AND COSTUMES ARE UNDER CHILD 1'S CHAIR. THESE ITEMS WILL BE PASSED FROM CHILD TO CHILD AS THE READING PROGRESSES.

LARGE SIGNS WITH THE FOLLOWING WORDS PRINTED UPON THEM WILL ALSO BE NEEDED: SURPRISED, AMAZED, DUMBFOUNDED, BEWILDERED, AND ASTONISHED. SIGNS MAY BE GLUED TO HOLDING STICKS, IF DESIRED. THESE WILL BE KEPT ON FLOOR IN FRONT OF APPROPRIATE READERS UNTIL CALLED FOR IN THE SCRIPT.)

**Narrator:** Late last Monday  
It happened, you see,

**Child 1:** A funny old man

(CHILD 1 PUTS ON HAT AND GLASSES, TAKES CANE).

**Child 2:** Shuffled up to me.

**Child 3:** He pointed his finger

**Child 4:** And scratched his head.

(CHILD 1 STANDS AND SHUFFLES DOWNSTAGE CENTER, PRETENDING TO BE THE OLD MAN. CHILD 1 STANDS FACING AUDIENCE).

**Child 5:** Then this is what the old man said,

(THE FOLLOWING WORD MUST BE SAID JUST AS IT IS WRITTEN: " EX-CUE-OOOOZ" IS PRONOUNCED AS THREE SYLLABLES. "OOOOZ" AND "ME" ARE EMPHASIZED. REHEARSE THIS BY ESTABLISHING A BEAT OR RHYTHM WHICH WILL BE USED THROUGHOUT THE STORY WHEN THESE WORDS APPEAR).

**All:** "EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!"

(CHILD 1 POINTS CANE OR WAGS FINGER AT AUDIENCE DURING FOLLOWING POEM. NOTE: DEPENDING ON CLASS READING LEVEL, CHILD 1 MAY ACTUALLY READ THE POEM INSTEAD OF NARRATOR).

**Narrator:** Is that your mama  
With the thick woolly hair,  
Looks like a camel  
But her back is bare?

She's lost her hump!  
And I'll tell you, too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

(ALL READERS POINT TO AUDIENCE IN UNISON ON "LIKE YOU!").

**All:** LIKE YOU!"

(CHILD 1 RETURNS TO CHAIR AND PASSES PROPS AND COSTUMES TO CHILD 2).

**Narrator:** As you can well imagine,  
I was

(CHILD 5 PICKS UP SIGN WHICH SAYS "SURPRISED." CHILD 5 STANDS, HOLDS SIGN ABOVE HEAD, AND SAYS):

**Child 5:** Surprised!

(NARRATOR STANDS. CHILD 5 SITS AND PLACES SIGN ON FLOOR).

**Narrator:** I began to feel  
Thick woolly hair  
Sprouting on my body  
Everywhere.

"No, no!" I cried.  
"That's not my mama.  
That crazy critter is just a

**All:** LLAMA."

(NARRATOR SITS).

**Narrator:** Late last Tuesday  
It happened, you see,

**Child 1:** A funny old man

(CHILD 2 PUTS ON HAT, GLASSES, TAKES CANE).

**Child 2:** Shuffled up to me.

**Child 3:** He pointed his finger

**Child 4:** And scratched his head.

(CHILD 2 STANDS AND SHUFFLES DOWNSTAGE CENTER, PRETENDING TO BE THE OLD MAN. CHILD 2 STANDS FACING AUDIENCE).

**Child 5:** Then this is what the old man said,

(SAME DIRECTIONS AS EARLIER).

**All:** "EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!



(CHILD 2 POINTS CANE OR WAGS FINGER JUST AS CHILD 1 DID EARLIER. AGAIN, CHILD 2 MAY READ FOLLOWING, IF DESIRED):

**Narrator:** Is that your papa  
With the black hairy knees  
And short bowed legs,  
Swinging through the trees?

**Narrator:** He's up to monkey business.  
And I'll tell you, too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

**All:** LIKE YOU!"

(ALL READERS POINT TO AUDIENCE IN UNISON ON "LIKE YOU!").

**Narrator:** As you can well imagine,  
I was

(CHILD 4 STANDS, HOLDS 'AMAZED' SIGN HIGH AND READS):

**Child 4:** Amazed!

(NARRATOR STANDS. CHILD 4 SITS AND PLACES SIGN ON FLOOR).

**Narrator:** I looked right down  
For I wanted to know,  
And my short little legs  
Were beginning to bow.

"No, no!" I cried  
"It's plain to see.  
That crazy critter is a

**All:** CHIMPANZEE."

(NARRATOR SITS).

**Narrator:** Late last Wednesday  
It happened, you see,

**Child 1:** A funny old man

(CHILD 3 HAS RECEIVED PROPS AND COSTUMES FROM CHILD 2 AND PREPARES TO PLAY THE OLD MAN).

**Child 2:** Shuffled up to me.

**Child 3:** He pointed his finger

**Child 4:** And scratched his head.

(CHILD 3 SHUFFLES TO DOWNSTAGE CENTRE AND FACES AUDIENCE).

**Child 5:** Then this is what the old man said,

(READ AS BEFORE).

**All:** "EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!

(CHILD 3 POINTS CANE OR WAGS FINGER. IF DESIRED, CHILD 3 READS THE FOLLOWING):

**Narrator:** Is that your brother  
With his nose held high,  
Spotted feet on the ground,  
Head in the sky?

He's got a long neck!  
And I'll tell you, too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

(ALL READERS POINT TO AUDIENCE IN UNISON ON "LIKE YOU!").

**All:** LIKE YOU!"

**Narrator:** As you can well imagine,  
I was

(CHILD 2 STANDS AND HOLDS UP  
"DUMBFOUNDED" SIGN).

**Child 2:** Dumbfounded.

(NARRATOR STANDS. CHILD 2 SITS AND  
PLACES SIGN ON FLOOR).

**Narrator:** I felt my neck  
And what do you know?  
The whole darn thing  
Was beginning to grow!

"No, no!" I cried.  
And I tried to laugh.  
"That crazy critter is a tall

**All:** GIRAFFE."

(NARRATOR SITS).

**Narrator:** Late last Thursday  
It happened, you see,

**Child 1:** A funny old man

(CHILD 4 PUTS ON HAT, GLASSES, TAKES  
CANE).

**Child 2:** Shuffled up to me.

**Child 3:** He pointed his finger

**Child 4:** And scratched his head.

(CHILD 4 READ ABOVE LINE, THEN STANDS  
AND SHUFFLES DOWNSTAGE CENTER,

PRETENDING TO BE THE OLD MAN. CHILD 4 STANDS FACING AUDIENCE).

**Child 5:** Then this is what the old man said,

(TO BE READ AS PREVIOUSLY REHEARSED):

**All:** "EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!

(CHILD 4 POINTS OR WAGS AS CHILDREN HAVE DONE BEFORE. CHILD 4 MAY ALSO READ FOLLOWING, IF DESIRED):

**Narrator:** Is that your sister  
With the built-in pouch,  
Hopping on her hind legs  
Acting like a grouch?

She's got a little joey.  
And I'll tell you, too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

(ALL READERS POINT TO AUDIENCE IN UNISON ON "LIKE YOU!").

**All:** LIKE YOU!"

**Narrator:** As you can well imagine,  
I was

(CHILD 3 STANDS, AND HOLDS "BEWILDERED" SIGN HIGH).

**Child 3:** Bewildered.

(NARRATOR STANDS. CHILD 3 SITS AND PLACES SIGN ON FLOOR).

**Narrator:** I didn't have a sister  
Who acted like a grouch.  
But for some strange reason,

I did have a pouch.

"No, no!" I cried  
"I know what's true.  
That crazy critter is a

**All:** KANGAROO."

(NARRATOR SITS).

**Narrator:** Late last Friday  
It happened, you see,

**Child 1:** A funny old man

(CHILD 5 NOW PLAYS THE FUNNY OLD MAN).

**Child 2:** Shuffled up to me.

**Child 3:** He pointed his finger

**Child 4:** And scratched his head.

(CHILD 5 SHUFFLES TO DOWNSTAGE SPOT  
AND DOES AS OTHERS HAVE DONE BEFORE).

**Child 5:** Then this is what the old man said,

(READ WITH ENTHUSIASM).

**All:** EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!

**Narrator:** Is that your uncle  
With the powerful jaws,  
Giant lizard body,  
And sharp clutching claws?

He's a grand old fossil.  
And I'll tell you, too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

(ALL READERS POINT TO AUDIENCE).

**All:** LIKE YOU!"

**Narrator:** As you can well imagine,  
I was

(CHILD 1 STANDS, HOLDS "ASTONISHED" SIGN  
HIGH).

**Child 1:** Astonished.

(NARRATOR STANDS. CHILD 1 SITS).

**Narrator:** My lizard lips  
Began to pout.  
My lizard tongue  
Flashed in and out.

"No, no!" I cried.  
"Please say no more.  
That crazy critter is a

**All:** DINOSAUR."

(NARRATOR SITS).

**Narrator:** Late this morning  
I woke in bed,  
Thoughts of critters  
In my head.

**Narrator:** Ran to the mirror  
And what did I see?

(CHILD 1 STANDS).

**Child 1:** No hair from a llama.

(CHILD 2 STANDS).

**Child 2:** No legs from a chimpanzee.

(CHILD 3 STANDS).

**Child 3:** No neck from a giraffe.

(CHILD 4 STANDS).

**Child 4:** No pouch from a kangaroo.

(CHILD 5 STANDS).

**Child 5:** No lips from a dinosaur.

(NARRATOR STANDS).

**Narrator:** I just saw me!

And I made myself a promise  
Which I plan to keep:

**All:** NO MORE EATING PIZZA  
BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP!

THE END

# THE CRAZY CRITTERS

by Lois Walker

## CLASSROOM SCRIPT FOR DUPLICATION

**Narrator:** Late last Monday  
It happened, you see,

**Child 1:** A funny old man

**Child 2:** Shuffled up to me.

**Child 3:** He pointed his finger

**Child 4:** And scratched his head.

**Child 5:** Then this is what the old man said,

**All:** "EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!

**Narrator:** Is that your mama  
With the thick woolly hair,  
Looks like a camel  
But her back is bare?

She's lost her hump!  
And I'll tell you, too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

**All:** LIKE YOU!"

**Narrator:** As you can well imagine,  
I was

**Child 5:** Surprised!



**Narrator:** I began to feel  
Thick woolly hair  
Sprouting on my body  
Everywhere.

"No, no!" I cried.  
"That's not my mama.  
That crazy critter is just a

**All:** LLAMA."

**Narrator:** Late last Tuesday  
It happened, you see,

**Child 1:** A funny old man

**Child 2:** Shuffled up to me.

**Child 3:** He pointed his finger

**Child 4:** And scratched his head.

**Child 5:** Then this is what the old man said,

**All:** "EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!"

**Narrator:** Is that your papa  
With the black hairy knees  
And short bowed legs,  
Swinging through the trees?

**Narrator:** He's up to monkey business.  
And I'll tell you, too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

**All:** LIKE YOU!"

**Narrator:** As you can well imagine,  
I was

**Child 4:** Amazed!

**Narrator:** I looked right down  
For I wanted to know,  
And my short little legs  
Were beginning to bow.

"No, no!" I cried  
"It's plain to see.  
That crazy critter is a

**All:** CHIMPANZEE."

**Narrator:** Late last Wednesday  
It happened, you see,

**Child 1:** A funny old man

**Child 2:** Shuffled up to me.

**Child 3:** He pointed his finger

**Child 4:** And scratched his head.

**Child 5:** Then this is what the old man said,

**All:** "EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!"

**Narrator:** Is that your brother  
With his nose held high,  
Spotted feet on the ground,  
Head in the sky?

He's got a long neck!  
And I'll tell you, too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

**All:** LIKE YOU!"

**Narrator:** As you can well imagine,  
I was

**Child 2:** Dumbfounded.

**Narrator:** I felt my neck  
And what do you know?  
The whole darn thing  
Was beginning to grow!

"No, no!" I cried.  
And I tried to laugh.  
"That crazy critter is a tall

**All:** GIRAFFE."

**Narrator:** Late last Thursday  
It happened, you see,

**Child 1:** A funny old man

**Child 2:** Shuffled up to me.

**Child 3:** He pointed his finger

**Child 4:** And scratched his head.

**Child 5:** Then this is what the old man said,

**All:** "EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!

**Narrator:** Is that your sister  
With the built-in pouch,  
Hopping on her hind legs  
Acting like a grouch?

She's got a little joey.  
And I'll tell you, too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

**All:** LIKE YOU!"

**Narrator:** As you can well imagine,  
I was

**Child 3:** Bewildered.

**Narrator:** I didn't have a sister  
Who acted like a grouch.  
But for some strange reason,  
I did have a pouch.

"No, no!" I cried  
"I know what's true.  
That crazy critter is a

**All:** KANGAROO."

**Narrator:** Late last Friday  
It happened, you see,

**Child 1:** A funny old man

**Child 2:** Shuffled up to me.

**Child 3:** He pointed his finger

**Child 4:** And scratched his head.

**Child 5:** Then this is what the old man said,

**All:** EX-CUE-OOOOZ ME!

**Narrator:** Is that your uncle  
With the powerful jaws,  
Giant lizard body,  
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He's a grand old fossil.  
And I'll tell you, too,  
That crazy critter looks a lot

**All:** LIKE YOU!"

**Narrator:** As you can well imagine,  
I was

**Child 1:** Astonished.

**Narrator:** My lizard lips  
Began to pout.  
My lizard tongue  
Flashed in and out.

"No, no!" I cried.  
"Please say no more.  
That crazy critter is a

**All:** DINOSAUR."

**Narrator:** Late this morning  
I woke in bed,  
Thoughts of critters  
In my head.

**Narrator:** Ran to the mirror  
And what did I see?

**Child 1:** No hair from a llama.

**Child 2:** No legs from a chimpanzee.

**Child 3:** No neck from a giraffe.

**Child 4:** No pouch from a kangaroo.

**Child 5:** No lips from a dinosaur.

**Narrator:** I just saw me!  
And I made myself a promise  
Which I plan to keep:

**All:** NO MORE EATING PIZZA  
BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP!

THE END