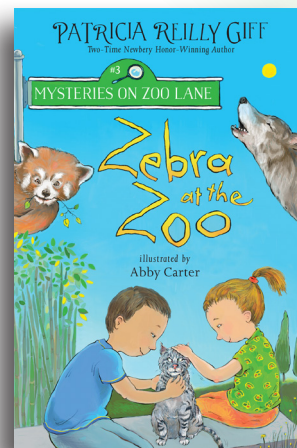
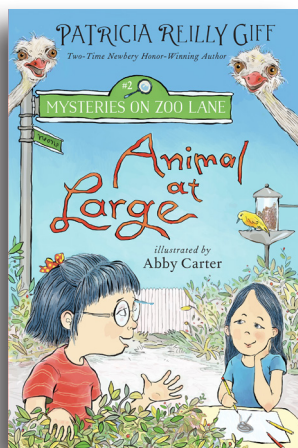
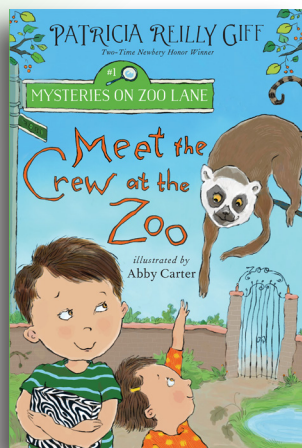




# HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



## ABOUT THE SERIES

Solve mysteries at a city zoo with a diverse group of kids in the illustrated chapter-book series by beloved, two-time Newbery Honor author Patricia Reilly Giff.

Patricia Reilly Giff has crafted charming stories about conservation, animal care, friendship, and problem-solving. In touch with the programs and initiatives that today's zoos are undertaking, Giff provides readers with a fresh look at the work of zoologists. Delightful line artwork by Abby Carter appears throughout and adds to the appeal for young readers.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

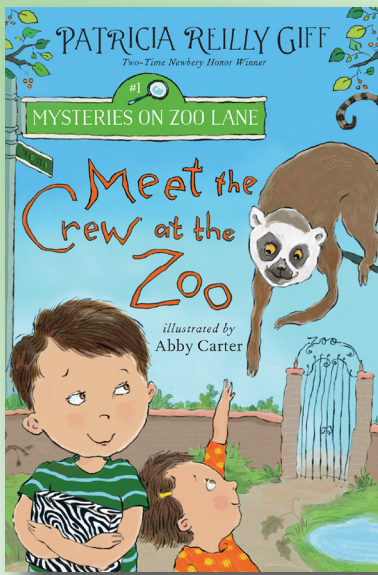


**Patricia Reilly Giff** (1935–2021) is the winner of two Newbery Honor Awards, for *Lily's Crossing* and *Pictures of Hollis Woods*. Some of her other middle grade novels include *Genevieve's War*, winner of the Christopher Award; *Nory Ryan's Song*, an ALA Notable Book; and *A Slip of a Girl*, which received two starred reviews. Her *Kids of the Polk Street School* and *Mysteries on Zoo Lane* series remain popular chapter-book mainstays.



**Abby Carter** has been illustrating since she was eleven years old when she started a card business with her grandma. Since then, Carter has illustrated a number of books, including *Ollie's School Day: A YES-and-NO Book*, the *Andy Shane* books, the *Mysteries on Zoo Lane* series, and *Daddies Do It Different*. Abby lives with her family in Connecticut.





HC: 9780823446667 • PB: 9780823448500  
e-book: 9780823448159

# Mysteries on Zoo Lane

## Meet the Crew at the Zoo #1

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Lions and tigers for neighbors? That doesn't bother Luke at all. It's making new friends that scares him.**

Not only has Luke had to move from Florida to New York because of his dad's new job as a zoo doctor, but he's also had to leave behind his best friend—his abuelo.

When Luke discovers that there are other kids also living on Zoo Lane and that one of them might be the owner of a mysterious zebra-printed box left outside his house, he wonders if just maybe he can make friends and solve a mystery in this wild new place.

### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

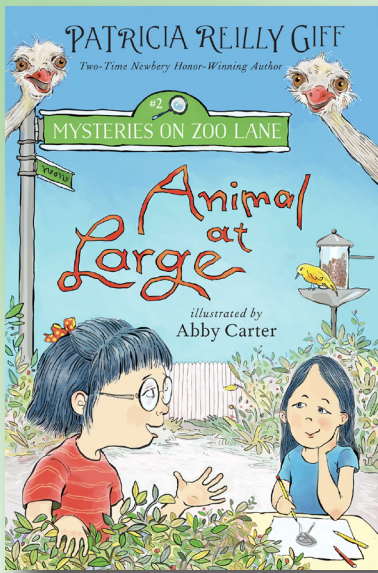
- Ask readers to define mystery. Then have them share their definitions with the class or group. What do all mysteries have in common?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discuss what Luke is feeling in the first chapter of the novel. How does the illustration on page 2 reveal what he is going to miss most about Florida? Explain how chapter 1 connects to chapter 12.
- Describe Luke's life on Zoo Lane. Discuss why Luke is afraid the first night in his new house. How does he deal with his fears? Debate whether his fears go away by the end of the novel.
- Luke's father is a zoo doctor. Discuss his responsibilities. Contrast his job with what Abuelo does in Florida. What does Luke learn about animals from his father and grandfather? Luke helps his father create a jungle for the puma to give birth. How does creating this special place make Luke feel?
- What is the mystery that Luke must solve? To unravel a mystery, one must narrow down the clues. Why is the Zebra box not a good clue? Explain why the items inside are very good clues. How does the Zebra box help Luke meet other kids? Some of the kids claim the box. Why is it important that Luke ask them to describe the contents?
- Explain why Luke's dad created the mystery. Who is Nana-Next-Door? How does Luke meet her? What is her role in the mystery?







HC: 9780823446674 • PB: 9780823449088  
e-book: 9780823448166

# Mysteries on Zoo Lane

## *Animal at Large #2*

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**A missing animal at the zoo and strange noises coming from her backyard can mean only one thing for Tori: she's got a mystery to solve!**

Tori loves living on Zoo Lane with her family. Who else gets to live at a zoo—and with her cousin Sumiko visiting from Tokyo soon, this is shaping up to be the best summer ever! But when rumors of a missing animal start to spread, Tori wants to help . . . except she doesn't know which creature is on the loose. An ostrich? A little frog? There's also a strange noise coming from her backyard. It almost sounds like someone is calling her name! Tori is on the case.

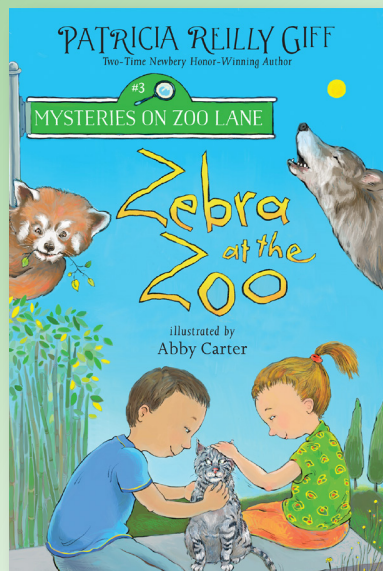
## PRE-READING ACTIVITY

- What does “At Large” mean? Ask readers to consider the title of the novel and write a paragraph that predicts the mystery that must be solved on Zoo Lane. Allow time for readers to share their writing.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Tori must write her life story for Miss Raymond, her teacher. Why does she think she has a plain life? Explain why she thinks Sumiko, her cousin, could write a great story. How does Tori discover that she does have something interesting to write about?
- Point out the first suggestion of a mystery. Tori hears the word “Tough!” How is this the first clue to the mystery? What is the significance of the sticker bush? Define “false clue.” What are the “false clues” in this mystery? Sometimes mysteries scare people. Point out which illustrations add to the suspense. What is the final clue to the mystery?
- Sumiko is an excellent artist. She's very anxious to draw an ostrich. What does Luke's father teach Sumiko and Tori about the ostrich?
- Ken, Tori's brother, conducts many different experiments and is disappointed when they don't work. Discuss what Sumiko means by “You can't be perfect all the time” (p. 30). Why is Tori especially glad to hear these words?
- Mr. Stewart, the boss of the zoo, always says, “Use your brain” (p. 31). How must Tori use her brain in solving the mystery?





HC: 9780823446681 • PB: 9780823449071  
e-book: 9780823449057

# Mysteries on Zoo Lane

## *Zebra at the Zoo #3*

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**A broken fence and an animal on the loose take center stage in book three of the series from a two-time Newbery Honor-winning author.**

Alex loves living on Zoo Lane, especially because he gets to visit his favorite animal in the world: the red panda. When he finds a hole in the zoo's fence, it presents the perfect opportunity to sneak into the zoo before school to see his beloved furry creatures. What Alex doesn't realize is that the broken fence will cause more problems than almost getting caught by the security guard. When an animal goes missing in the zoo, can he come clean about the fence?

### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

- Consider the title of the book and the cover art, and write a paragraph that suggests which animal may be the subject of the mystery.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The conflict in a novel is the problem to be solved. Discuss the difference between a conflict and a mystery. The conflict in *Zebra at the Zoo* is presented in the first chapter. Identify the conflict. How does Alex make his troubles worse when he runs from the zookeeper? How does his decision to run bother him throughout his first day of school?
- What is Alex dreading most about the first day of school? Discuss the nice surprise that greets him when he arrives at his new classroom.
- Mrs. Hall tells the students that they are going to research and write about one of the animals in the zoo. Alex really wants the red panda, his favorite animal. Debate whether he hurts his chances of getting the red panda when he speaks out of turn.
- Nana-Next-Door senses that Alex is unhappy. Explain why Alex is willing to share his troubles with her. Discuss why she thinks that Alex must face the zookeeper. Nana-Next-Door introduces Alex to Clem, a new zookeeper. He isn't the one that chased Alex, but he introduces Alex to the wolves. How do Clem and Mrs. Hall help Alex get excited about his research on the wolf?
- At what point is it obvious what the mystery in the novel is? How does Alex feel guilty that Oreo is missing? Discuss Callie's role in solving the mystery. Explain how solving the mystery causes Alex and Callie to become friends. How does Alex help Callie with her report on the red panda?

