



Animal Tails:

explorations of the animal world through connections to literature



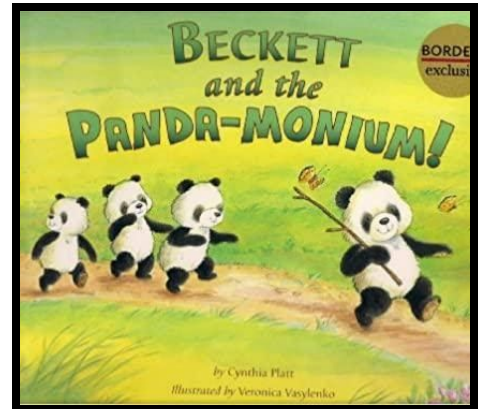
Beckett and the Panda-Monium

by Mike Wu

Age: Pre-K-2nd grade

Gather your Gear

- [Beckett and the Panda-Monium](#) book or log on to watch the storybook reading
- Paper plate or piece of paper
- Pencil, markers, or crayons



Get Ready

You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before reading the story.

- What does a panda look like?
- What do you think giant pandas eat?
- What else do you already know about giant pandas?

Read

Read the book, stopping to explore key story ideas. Below are some prompts to help guide you.

- What is Beckett looking for and why?
- This book is a great tool to use to practice counting together. As Beckett continues his adventure, count the growing number of pandas on each page with your child.

Reflect

Briefly discuss what was important or what we learned. Below are some questions to guide you.

- What did he do when he found the bamboo?
- What were some words that were used to describe bamboo in the book?
- What were some words that were used to describe Beckett and the way he was feeling?

Relate

Create connections to the idea through activities.



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Create a Plate

1. Beckett's favorite food is bamboo! Discuss your favorite foods together.
2. Use a paper plate or draw a plate on a piece of paper, and draw your favorite foods on it.
3. Think about some words that could be used to describe the foods you chose. Get creative and come up with as many words as you can for each. Think about colors, sizes, textures, and tastes. Can you come up with any rhyming words like in the story to describe your favorite foods?

Did you know: Giant pandas are black and white bears that live in the mountains of China in bamboo forests. Even though they are bears, they feed almost exclusively on bamboo. They have powerful jaw muscles and large, flat molars to crunch through the very tough stems. They have a special bone in their wrist that looks like an extra thumb, called a pseudo-thumb, and it helps them hold on to their bamboo while they crunch away! At Zoo Atlanta, each adult panda is offered about 80 pounds of bamboo per day, and they will eat about a third of it. They also are offered high-fiber leafeater biscuits, fruits like apples, and sweet potatoes.



It takes a team.... join ours

Help us save species by joining the “Zoo Conservation Corps” and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If you or your family are on social media, post your plate to share with your family and friends what you have learned. Use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more....

- Go to Zoo Atlanta's website to learn about the giant pandas at the Zoo:
<https://zooatlanta.org/animal/giant-panda/>
- Check out what Zoo Atlanta's giant pandas are up to and watch them on the live PandaCam:
<https://zooatlanta.org/panda-cam/>
- Get updates on Zoo Atlanta's giant pandas by reading the Panda Blog:
<https://zooatlanta.org/category/pandas/>
- World Wildlife Fund is another good resource to read about pandas:
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/giant-panda>