



Priscilla Gorilla

Barbara Bottner , Michael Emberley (Illustrations)

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Priscilla madly, passionately loves loves LOVES gorillas. There are many reasons why, as Priscilla will happily tell you. But the best reason?

They always get their way!

So when Mr. Todd tells all his students to dress up like their favorite animal, Priscilla's choice is obvious. But dancing around and beating her chest when it's not her turn sends Priscilla straight to the Thinking Corner. As her attitude spreads, soon the whole Thinking Corner is full of her classmates!

Is Priscilla really channeling her inner gorilla, or is she just a troublemaker in ape's clothing?

Priscilla Gorilla Details

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paula says

I could look at Michael Emberley's art all day long. His faces edge just slightly into caricature, all the better to spotlight emotion or attitude. There's always something neat going on in the background, and always some reverberation from the text - beyond the simple one-to-one ratio of 'show what the words are saying. I always recall the patterned upholstery in *It's Perfectly Normal* - if you looked very very closely, characters sat on couches covered with fabric in a tiny uterus or vulva pattern. That's commitment to the story.

Gordon says

I have a great appreciation of books about children who express their individuality despite the repressive nature of some adults. Priscilla is a free spirit. Her mom and dad encourage her to be. Priscilla is also nuts about gorillas. At school, her enthusiasm gets her into hot water with her teacher. In Barbara Bottner's **Priscilla Gorilla**, it's the teacher, Mr. Todd, who gets schooled not only about gorillas, but also about all things *Priscilla*. This book is illustrated in a magnificently fun-filled style and has a terrific little story as well.

Amy says

When Priscilla receives a book on gorillas, she instantly falls in love. She talks about them, draws pictures of them and even wears gorilla pajamas. Gorillas are the best, because they always get their way! When her teacher assigns the class to write a report on their favorite animal, Priscilla's choice is easy. The next day, Priscilla dresses up like a gorilla and goes to school, and decides to stay a gorilla, even after the report was over. The following day, Priscilla decides she is still a gorilla and Lily decides that she is a lion. As the days go on more of the kids in her class decide to be animals, which sends them all to the dreaded "thinking corner." Will everyone soon become animals, turning the classroom into a zoo, or will Priscilla finally learn the best lesson of all?

Follow the engaging story of an independent girl whose passion can get her in a little bit of trouble. This is for anyone who has a little gorilla of their own, and understands the overzealous nature of Priscilla, and her need to be a gorilla at all times. *Priscilla Gorilla* perfectly captures the heart, mind and authentic character of a child's mind and delightfully gives a voice to the child who marches to their own tune.

You can find the rest of my reviews and giveaways in my weekly newspaper column: *For the Love of Books-Dixon's Independent Voice*

Meredith says

I'll be in the Thinking Corner.

Serenity says

I was really smitten by the illustrations in this book. They have an old-fashioned quality (so maybe invoked a bit of nostalgia?), and they felt very true-to-life in their depictions of school and home.

Priscilla is a bit of a stinker, but I like the way the adults in her life handle her quirkiness, and the ending is sweet. I think older elementary will enjoy this book as a readaloud.

Peacegal says

I liked the illustrations and appreciated the storyline about a little girl who is obsessed with gorillas--this will ring true to anyone who has experience with youngsters who get really, really enamored with one subject and have to know everything about it.

That said, I guess the adult in me was rather disapproving of how much Priscilla disrupted class, and how little control her teacher had over his classroom.

Tasha says

The bestselling duo behind the Miss Brooks books returns with a new book. Priscilla loves gorillas, mostly because they get to do whatever they want. She acts like them and dances like them. She loves to wear her gorilla costume all the time, particularly at school. But because she acts like a gorilla, her teacher puts her in the Thinking Corner sometimes. As Priscilla starts to be seen as a troublemaker, other children join her in the Thinking Corner in their own costumes. But perhaps it's not being really gorilla-like to be so troublesome, since gorillas are also known for cooperating together. Can Priscilla figure out how to be true to her own inner gorilla even if it means cooperating?

Bottner has such a way with capturing the spirit of childhood on the page. Priscilla speaks for all children as she struggles to navigate the lines between being troublesome, being an individual, and cooperating with others. Bottner writes in an engaging way, allowing the story to unwind at a natural pace that keeps readers caught up in the story. The book ends with Priscilla's class visiting the zoo and the book beautifully comes full circle as cooperation merges with gorilla dancing.

Emberley's illustrations are superb. He depicts all of the children in their animal costumes with a wry sense of humor, plushness, bent tails and wrinkles. One wants to crawl into a costume and join the fun. The depiction of Priscilla's parents and teacher are also cleverly done, showing parents who are allowing their daughter to figure things out but also giving a gentle gorilla nudge in the right direction.

Funny and smart, I'm bananas about this picture book. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

Sheri says

Priscilla loves gorillas and her gorilla costume and wears it whenever possible. Her behavior in school mimics gorillas and she earns some thinking time. Cute book and nice way of saying she has to think about acting like a gorilla in class. The teacher is more patient than most. Priscilla is a fun, precocious girl and reminds me of many children I know well. The illustrations are so fun and showing all the kids in their costumes for favorite animal reports. But find out what Priscilla misses when she won't take off her costume. The ending has a twist when teacher takes the children to the zoo and the Ape House.

Susan Schuler says

cute!

Becky says

First sentence: When Priscilla turned six, her dad gave her a book called ALL ABOUT GORILLAS. They read it a million skillion times!

Premise/plot: Priscilla spends a LOT of time in her classroom's thinking corner. It could be because she's a HUGE distraction to the rest of her class. Priscilla is so completely-absolutely obsessed with gorillas that she does not want to learn, at least in a traditional sense of the word.

My thoughts: To teachers everywhere looking for a book besides Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes to read aloud at the start of the year, I give you Priscilla Gorilla.

I liked it. I'm not sure I loved, loved, loved it. Priscilla is an over-the-top character. It's just as easy to forgive her as to get mad at her in the first place. The book is cute.

Text: 4 out of 5

Illustrations: 4 out of 5

Total: 8 out of 10

Sara Grochowski says

This book is excellent! PRISCILLA GORILLA is a humorous, thoughtful story of a passionate girl whose love of gorillas sometimes gets a bit out of hand. A must have for home, library, and classroom collections.

Donalyn says

Adorable. Great read aloud potential!

Melody says

Priscilla is obsessed by gorillas. She gets a little disruptive in class and spends a lot of time in the thinking corner.

June says

This book tickled me. A young girl obsessed with gorillas is sent to the thinking corner repeatedly for disrupting her class. When she tells her parents that her class is running out in the Thinking Corner, her father informs her that the All About Gorillas book says: "gorillas mostly help each other. They've lasted all these millions of years because the COOPERATE." When Priscilla says she's more of a troublemaker gorilla. Her father replies that if she likes being a troublemaker maybe she should be a different animal - a skunk.

Mary says

Priscilla loves gorillas so much that she learns as much as she can about them and goes to school dressed up as one. Over time, she becomes more of a troublemaker gorilla than a cooperative one and is often invited to the "thinking corner" by her teacher. Her friends begin to join her there as they appreciate and repeat her antics. However, when they get to the zoo, all of Priscilla's knowledge comes in handy with the real gorillas. Pencil and paint illustrations bring the story to life and help teach readers appropriate classroom behavior.
