

ANIMALS



FATOKUN 'BIG M' MAYOWA

BOOK II

FOREWORD

This is another poetry collection from the amazing collection of poems written by the same poet targeted at intermediary learners and all lovers of poetry.

This collection is written on animals, household and wild animals. The poet takes a poetic look at the animals as simple and descriptive as possible for learners to learn new things.

DEDICATION

Dedicated to my family.

GUIDE

This book 2 contains twenty poems on different animals.

The poems have free verses, very simple and easy to read and understand, the grammar is basic but focus is needed.

The class or subject teachers should take their time to explain difficult words and concepts found in the poem. They should also calmly and expertly explain the poem for better understanding.

After their analysis, the students should answer the questions under each poem.

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DONKEY



You can also call it an ass

Related to the horse but not one

Its ancestor traced to Africa

For over five thousand years helping man

The rugged working animal

Very helpful yet highly under-appreciated

If you are called an ass

You must be hardworking

Multi tasking and still under-appreciated

Large ears to heighten hearing

Either to hear the call of a herd

Or quickly identify the sound of a predator

The ears are indeed a miracle
As heat can be sent out through them
So the donkeys can stay cool
They can be intelligent too
Policing your farm animals

You should be amazed at its braying
And only it can do it this way
Braying while breathing in and out
Hee while breathing in, haw while out
Very funny that they can mate with horses and zebras
Mule, Hinny, John mule, molly
Are some of the names from loving a horse
Very funny names
Zebra hinny, zebret, zebrinny, zebrass, zebroid and zedonk
Are some of the names from mating with a zebra
Donkeys can be your social plug
Easy going and friendly
If you have no friends, maybe you should learn how from a donkey.
If you are called an ass
Then you are a stubborn being.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to mean be an ass?
2. Describe the amazing things about a donkey's respiration

LEOPARD



Have you seen a dark leopard yet?

Rare

Leopards are such a beauty

With their bright colours and dark spots

Spots resembling a rose

So we call the spots rosettes

Big speedy cats with springy feet

Have you seen one jump before?

The leap is a wonder

An amazement that will create a bubbling in your heart

A solitary animal

Leaving marks everywhere to mark its territories

Skilled climbers

Eating pretty much anything available

Daytime sleepers

Nocturnal hunters

A prey is seen from afar

Then stealthily approaches

Till it's close enough for a pounce

Then goes for the jugular

Locking its bite until the prey goes down

And that is how to do it

Some preys don't need the bite

It will be an overkill

Only the feline's paw's strike will do for some

Before they say bye to the wicked world

Ready to mate anytime of the year

Giving birth anytime of the year

Blessing the jungle with cubs they only stay with for only two years after birth

After which the cubs become hunters

Starting from smaller preys

And as they grow

They become more accomplished hunters

Aiming for bigger preys

And blessing the jungle with their own Cubs.

QUESTIONS

1. Describe how the leopard hunts
2. List five adjectives from the poem and describe how they paint accurate picture of the leopard.

ZEBRA



Same family with the horse and the donkey

Adorned with a black and white striped coat

Black and white beauty

One of nature's coolest animals

A zebra says ' I eat only herbs'

A predator says ' but you are yummy to me'

All zebras are native to Africa

Africa's own

Every animal may look the same

That's to outsiders

Especially animals having spots and colours

Or stripes such as the zebra

You think you cant know me?

Says the zebra

You think I am like the other zebras?

Says the zebra

You think we are all the same?

Says the zebra

Until you look at the stripes and see how different I am

How different I am from that stripped friend of mine

The stripes are just to confuse you my friend

But we know ourselves

And we move all the time

Looking for fresh grass to eat and water to drink

One day another friend of mine

Almost became a meal for the cunning crocodile

I move with my herd

Our mares, fowls and stallions are all living happily together.

QUESTIONS

1. What other animal can a zebra mate with?
2. What does the line five of the second stanza mean?

PIG



Can be confusing

Twenty different squeals and grunts

How do you know what it wants?

Whether anger, hunger or need to mate

Have you seen a pigsty lately?

I bet you loved what you saw

I have seen where pigs are living in mud and dirt

Some have seen where there are no muds

And that is a proper upbringing for the belly rub lovers

Pigs cant sweat

Do not be misled

Sweating like a pig is impossible

So check it!

You will fall in love with a pig
When you know they're more intelligent than dogs
No wonder they are the fifth most intelligent animals
Maybe you should use a pig to train a dog
A mother pig would sing to her piglets
Just like humans would
Taking a stroll far away from home
And getting back, what a great sense of direction.
Have you seen a piggy pile?
Yes, they love to sleep nose to nose
Staying close to one another
As they take a trip to dream-ville because they dream
An excellent memory to cap all these
Remembering where that sweet spot is
Or locating an object or a place
Is a piece of cake for a pig

QUESTIONS

1. According to the poem, explain two features of a pig that makes him different from a dog
2. What is a piggy pile?

KANGAROO



What are you doing?

Roo: I am jumping

Jumping Jumping Jumping

Roo: I am Jumping

Kangaroo, big foot.

That is what it means

Leaping more than nine meters in a single bound

Thanks to their powerful hind legs and large feet

Can you jump?

Are you an Olympic gold medalist?

Who is your trainer?

Your trainer is still a rookie to a kangaroo

So leaping is not the only thing

What about kick boxing?

When you see a herd

That is about fifty professional kick boxers

Is kick boxing not how they defend?

So why trouble them

Let them enjoy their herbs in peace

Or sit somewhere, watch and enjoy

As the males battle one another for females

The females wear a pouch

Better than designer bags

Where they carry their Joeys

In the safety of their own skin, an amazing marsupial.

Say hi to its daddy, boomer

And hello to its mummy, jill

Roos are indigenous to Australia

But they are loved all around the world.

QUESTIONS

1. Can you locate a roo's family names?

2. What animals are referred to as marsupials? List them

PORCUPINE



Name from old English and French words

Meaning thorny pigs

What a prickly bunch

The third largest rodent in the world

I don't see how this animal is dangerous

Unless threatened

Even when threatened

It never throws its quills

Even though it has about thirty thousand on its body

One would think it's the ultimate weapon

Shooting it like darts

Like most believe

Or like spears

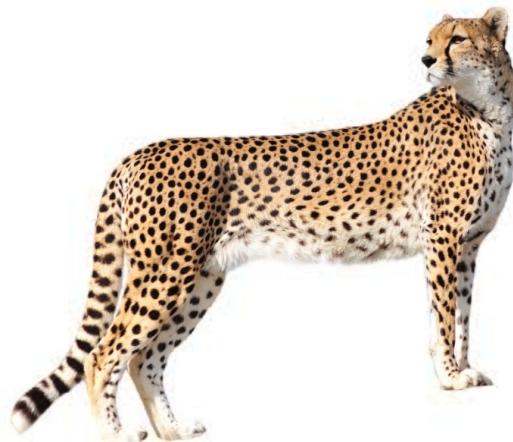
In your wildest dreams
It only uses its tails to attack
By swatting and that's all
But that is not all
About thirty thousand quills
And none can hurt the porcupine
Whether it swims or climbs a tree
It is safe even as it sleeps during the day and hunts at night.

Animals and humans alike
Fighting over females
A show of wit and strength
And the winner takes it all
A porcupine fights another over a female
And when it wins the battle
It urinates over the female
And the female obliges by moving her tail
Moving her tail to a side
To allow a quill-free mating
Blessing the universe with porcupettes

QUESTIONS

1. Describe the mating process of a porcupine
2. What is the weapon of a porcupine?

CHEETAH



Fast and furious

The fastest land animal

Who is your daddy?

I heard people break records on the field

Wowing their lovers with amazing speed

And everytime surpassing their previous feat

Conquering the track and the field

But at 112km/ hour in about three seconds

Can you?

Faster than a sports car trottles, can you?

Who is your daddy?

Spotting dark spots over their yellow coats

Also a feline

Preferring to hunt during the day
And sleep at night
At first scanning the environment,
Picking up a target
Paws ready and crouching low
Then a leap with jaws on the jugular of the prey
Meal is served.
Female cheetahs live a solitary life
Only choosing to live with males when they mate
And when they deliver
Dropping between 2 and 8 cubs is regular.

Never roars but purrs while inhaling and ex
A tail like rudder
Perfectly guiding it through the jungle
Even at high speed.

QUESTIONS

1. What animals are known as feline?
2. 'A tail like rudder' - Carry out an analysis on this

FOX



Not dogs but related to them

Unmistakable with their pointy faces

Little frames and bushy tails

Say hi to they solitary animals

Family animals living in their burrow

No packs but skulks

Hunting and sleeping alone

Unlike most animals in their calibre

Like a cat but not a cat

Able to Walk on its toes

Blessed with eyes for the night

Where it comes out to hunt for food

Are your parents foxes?

Perhaps you think I insult

If your parents are foxes

They are caring

That's what foxes are

Caring for their young ones

Vixens will protect the pup till its strong enough

Defending it with her life

Pups will play

And will play dangerously with one another

Hierarchy must be established

Even if by playfully hurting one another.

Known to be fast and sneaky

Even playing dead to escape death.

QUESTIONS

1. Describe a fox in one sentence
2. Why is a fox better than some human parents?

SHEEP



Whether a ram

Or An ewe

Even lambs

There are over a billion of them

Castrate one and it becomes a wether

Sight a group and call them a herd

Mob also goes

Flock sounds great too

You should wonder

And be filled with amazement

When you learn that

The sheep eyes are on the head

Blessed with the ability to see 300degrees

So the sheep can see behind its head

It's funny when you know certain facts
Such sad how many sheep intestine must be sacrificed
Just to make one tennis racket
This is a sad news for those that tup
Knowing how many will go for one tennis racket

All white and regarded as pure
Unstained and without blemish
Perhaps thought foolish
Going where it is led
They can call you a black sheep
The odd one out
Perhaps you are eating faeces
A dog's friend is likely to enjoy a feast of faeces with it.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the saddest fact you have learnt about a sheep in this poem?
2. What does tup mean?

RABBIT



She is as fast as a rabbit

Then she is fast.

Cute looking animals

Delete the cuteness

When you find them eating their own poop

And grow as a toddler

Or heavy as twenty pounds

A cat's baby is a kitten

A baby rabbit is too

If you're a rabbit

Your mum will be a doe

And your father a buck

Have you seen a binky before?

Play with a rabbit and it may bless you with one

Hopping and twisting in mid air

A sign of happiness!

You can not sneak up on a rabbit

Eyes rotating round its head

Knowing what is coming behind it

The next it to jump.

QUESTIONS

1. Line one is an example of what figure of speech?
2. Describe a binky.

CAMEL



The king of the desert

Master of dry places

Its perseverance game is top notch

All hail the desert warrior

How can something survive somewhere nothing can?

And not just survive

But claim it as its terrestrial abode

Yes, it's about 110 degrees

But I'm still comfortable, very comfortable

Says the camel

Even with up to two hundred pounds of weight

I am still okay

you mean there is no water in sight?

That is no problem

I can go eight days without it

Even upto a month without food

Boasting three sets of eyelids

All for their protection

It's true that it will go days without water

And You're not surprised?

Maybe it can drink Upto 40 gallons of water

All at a stretch

When it decides to

It's a work machine

I almost said it's a workhorse

But a horse itself is also a workhorse

QUESTIONS

1. Mention three things special about a camel according to the poem
2. What is the preserverance level of a camel?

GORILLA



They say it's the closest to a human

Tell your brother to say hi to his animal relative

Is it strength?

Or wit?

Either way

A gorilla can be a formidable friend or

A destructive enemy

Have you seen king Kong?

You see two sides?

Which one is better?

Stick to that side

Very sociable

The family type

Is it Communicating in sophisticated ways?

Or Making tools and using them?

A gorilla is skillful and intelligent

Yet they can eat all day long

I envy these.

It seems all these animals do

Is to eat all day

And sleep at night, very cozy in their nests

Moving with their troops

Or bands

And displaying human emotions

One can not help but feel sorry when they do

Or laugh when they amuse

But run when they get infuriated

Especially when you threaten their peace

Or mess with their infants.

QUESTIONS

1. What is a baby gorilla called?

2. Why is a gorilla considered almost human?

CHAMELEON



I can see you

You cant see me

Your shirt is nice

So I'll change into it

Nice outfit, I love the colours

So I'll change into it

It's a game now

And its chameleonic

Do you know that each of my eyes function separately?

Yes, I can focus on two objects at a time

My left goes east

My right goes west

If you're an insect,

I can sight you from afar

Yummy!

One tail in a lifetime

Unlike my brother, the lizard

Once my tail is cut

Then that is it.

The smaller the chameleon is

The faster its tongue

Poisoning preys with its sticky spit

The rest is history.

QUESTIONS

1. Mention two amazing things about the chameleon
2. What do you think about the poet's presentation of the first stanza.

RHINOCEROS



Rhino and ceros

Nose and horn

Or nosehorn

Because you can clearly see.

After the elephant

The rhino is the next in size

Rhino, big body and small brain

Should not be underestimated anyway

So a rhino's horn is not bone?

Wow!

If it falls off

Do you know another will replace?

Odd-toed ungulates

Yes, that's a family of mammals

Care to know what they are?

Take clues from a herd or a crash

Despite their weight

They run quite fast

Usain Bolt?

Not close!

They do have a bad eyesight

Even at thirty meters away

But great smell and hearing

Even at far distance away

African rhinos, oxpeckers

What's with this union?

One says, eat the insects on my body

The other says, I'll alert even there's danger

Let's communicate through poo

Because I am a rhino

Now you can know everything about me

Just like I you.

QUESTIONS

1. What are odd - toed ungulates?
2. Why is Usain Bolt referenced when the poet talks about a rhino's speed?

HIPPOPOTAMUS



Hip hip hip

Hurray!

Not even related.

Hippos or river horses

As the Greeks call them

They love water, obviously

Spending upto sixteen hours in it

If you cant swim

Why then do you spend hours in water?

A hippo smiles

Maybe it's to cool myself from the sun

While walking or running along the river bottom

The elephant, rhino and hippo,

All share one thing

Do you know it?

Yes I do but you should find out

A beast

A nice beast

So heavy

Yet prefers herbs

From birth as a calf

To adulthood as a bull or female

A hippo lives Upto fifty years

A herd is nice when you see one

Until bulls start fighting for females

Which is vicious

Just like most animals

Such noisemakers

These animals surely know how to party

Party like rockstars

They may be cute

Yet very dangerous

Aggressive

And a hippo says 'don't mess with me'

When I am one, call me a hippopotamus

When we are two or more

You have a choice

A hippopotami is cool

Hippopotamuses too is not bad

QUESTIONS

1. Discuss one figure of speech from the poem
2. To you, what is the most amazing feature of the hippo?

WOLF



Hello Canis lupus

I see your deadly fourty - two teeth

But four toes?

That is funny

So your pups are born deaf and blind?

But yes, wait till they are a bit old

Then they start earning how to hunt

Just by watching their parents

Menace of the jungle

Hunting elk, deer, mouse and other animals

A wolf says

'I can hear you from six miles'

Since I have more than two hundred million scent smells,

Then I know who you are.

QUESTIONS

1. Can you draw a wolf?
2. Mention two facts about the wolf

HONEY BADGER



Hi there, Mellivora capensis

Honey eater of the Cape

You can doubt it before its size

But you can clear the doubt by the power in that size

What about its reversible anus that sprays stinky liquid?

For defence maybe?

Or offence?

Whatever, it can make a human choke

Small animal, big brain

Tricking and escaping; a perfect art

Eating birds

Or rotting meat

Flowers

And even snakes.

Keep digging, lets go a - digging

If digging is what you do, lets both go a - digging

QUESTIONS

1. What can you say about the diet choices of the honey badger?

2. What does lets go a - digging mean?

DESERT ROAD RUNNER



Whether a rattle snake or not

I will snap you by the head and eat you

Lizards, yes.

Scorpions? Yummy

Rodents and other birds even? No problem

When I run, it is up to seventeen miles an hour

When I kill, I swallow my kills whole

Even if big, I will swallow an inch or two at a time

Till I have it all in my stomach

I am a male roadrunner

I need to take care of my missus

I will offer choice food to her

At least, that you grant me passage of mating

I am not completely safe

Other birds can kill me

Raccoons too and sometimes the icy weather too isn't friendly.

Before I forget, I am *Geococcyx californiarus*

QUESTIONS

1. Describe the mating rites of the male road runner
2. Describe its feeding habits

EARTHWORM



Looking for bones?

Sorry, you will be disappointed

If not damaged much after an accident

Lost parts may regrow

Where is the decay?

I am hungry

I only eat rots

Lung - less,

How do I breath?

My skin

I don't live for long

Just between four and five years

I am a weirdo

I can both be a male and a female.

QUESTIONS

1. Explain two abnormal things about the earthworm
2. How does it breath?

HOUSEFLY



Musca domestica

I cannot chew

If liquid?

Yummy, wish me a bon appetit

Its simple

I can vomit juices on solid food

My juices break solid food down

And then the rest is history

I can taste with my own feet

Crazy right?

And as tiny as I am,

I defecate, a lot, regardless of where

I know you already know

Yes, I spread diseases too

I can see from behind

In case you don't know too

One funny thing,

If I am a male housefly, I will be looking for a date right now.

QUESTIONS

1. Describe two diseases that the housefly spreads
2. Can you draw one?