

# Throw an Animal Adventure Party!

Go a little wild with your storytime and throw a Stampede! Start your adventure with **Stampede! Poems to Celebrate the Wild Side of School**, by Laura Purdie Salas, illustrated by Steven Salerno (Clarion Books, ISBN: 978-0618914883). Add in some of the following activities for an unforgettable getaway.

**Lead the Way:** Cut colorful animal footprints out of construction paper. Tape them down from the entrance to the party area.

**Dress the Part:** Wear a khaki jacket with a Safari Guide or Zookeeper nametag. Tell guests, “Welcome to our stampede! Are you ready for a wild time? Follow the animal tracks!”

**Draw an Animal:** On sheets of paper (see page 5), kids can either write down their pets’ names or draw pictures of them. Or they can write or draw their favorite animal. Set up a spot where these can be displayed, if possible.

**Coloring Time:** Set out animal coloring sheets, along with crayons or markers.

## Reading and Roaring:

Have kids share what pets they have or would like to have. What are their favorite animals? Explain that each poem in the book *Stampede: Poems to Celebrate the Wild Side of School* compares a kid to some kind of an animal. The poet got the idea for this collection when her daughter had to have two teeth pulled and she put straws where the teeth used to be.

Before reading each poem, show the illustration. Ask kids to guess which animal this poem will compare a kid to. Point out clues like the “pig’s” curly tail and the “elephants’” grey hoodies.

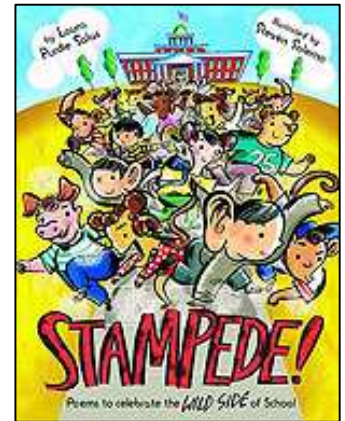


Ask kids what noise, if any, that animal makes. If the animal does have a sound, tell them that **after** you read the poem, the whole group will make that animal noise as loud as they can—until you give the special stop signal (a big “Safe” motion, like in baseball).

Read the poem slowly and with enthusiasm. Then start making the animal noise and motion the kids to join in!

Another option is, if the animal has a recognizable sound and motion, you could have 3-5 volunteers come stand up front for the reading of each poem. Then once you finish reading the poem, those kids lead the whole group in the noisemaking.

For the final poem, “Stampede,” go over the meaning of the word stampede. After the poem, the kids can make elephant noises AND stomp their feet on the ground to create the sound of a huge herd of elephants.



**Photo Safari:** Hide pictures of animals or small plastic animals around the room for kids to try to find. Explain the concept of a photo safari (shooting pictures, not animals). Give each child a checklist of animals to try to “photograph” and check off on the list.



**Paper Plate Charades:** Have one child or a small group come to the front. Privately show them an animal paper plate (available at most grocery stores). The child or group then acts out the animal for the rest of the group, and the larger group tries to guess the animal. For older kids, you can give them a mood, too. They can be an angry elephant or a hungry bear, for instance.

**Pin the Tail on the Pig:** Hang the pig picture. Hand out pink curly ribbon or pipe cleaners. Blindfold each child, spin him 3 times, and have him try to tape the tail in the right spot.

**Egg Race:** Hard boil eggs in advance. Set up a relay race where kids have to carry the egg on a spoon and squawk like a chicken as they quickly walk the course.

**Safari Guide Says:** Just like Simon Says, but include animal movements and noises!

**Party Favors:** Animal crackers, animal stickers, small plastic animals, toy cameras, animal noses, headbands with animal ears on them, bookmarks

### Refreshments:

Bananas

Bug juice

Puppy chow snack mix

Cheese cubes

Animal crackers

Frosted animal cookies

### Sing some songs:

#### The Animals at the Zoo (To the tune of The Wheels on the Bus)

The lions (monkeys, pigs, elephants) at the zoo go roar-roar-roar  
 Roar-roar-roar, Roar-roar-roar  
 The lions at the zoo go roar-roar-roar  
 All the livelong day

#### Three Little Ducks

Three little ducks (two, one) went out one day  
 Over the hill and far away  
 Mama duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack."  
 But only two (one, no) little ducks came back.

Sad Mama duck went out one day  
 Over the hill and far away  
 The sad mother duck said "Quack, quack, quack."  
 [SHOUT HAPPILY] And all of the five little ducks came back.

### Bringing Home a Baby Bumblebee

I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee,  
Won't my mommy be so proud of me? (Cup hands together as if holding bee)  
I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee,  
Ouch! It stung me! (Shake hands as if just stung)

I'm squishing up the baby bumblebee,  
Won't my mommy be so proud of me? (Squish bee between palms of hands)  
I'm squishing up a baby bumblebee,  
Ooh! It's yucky! (Open up hands to look at 'mess')

**Keep Reading:** Here are some fun companion books for *Stampede!*

*If You Hopped Like a Frog*, by David Schwartz and James Warhol

*Llama Llama Misses Mama*, by Anna Dewdney

*Elephants Cannot Dance*, by Mo Willems

### Craft: Make a Butterfly



#### Supplies:

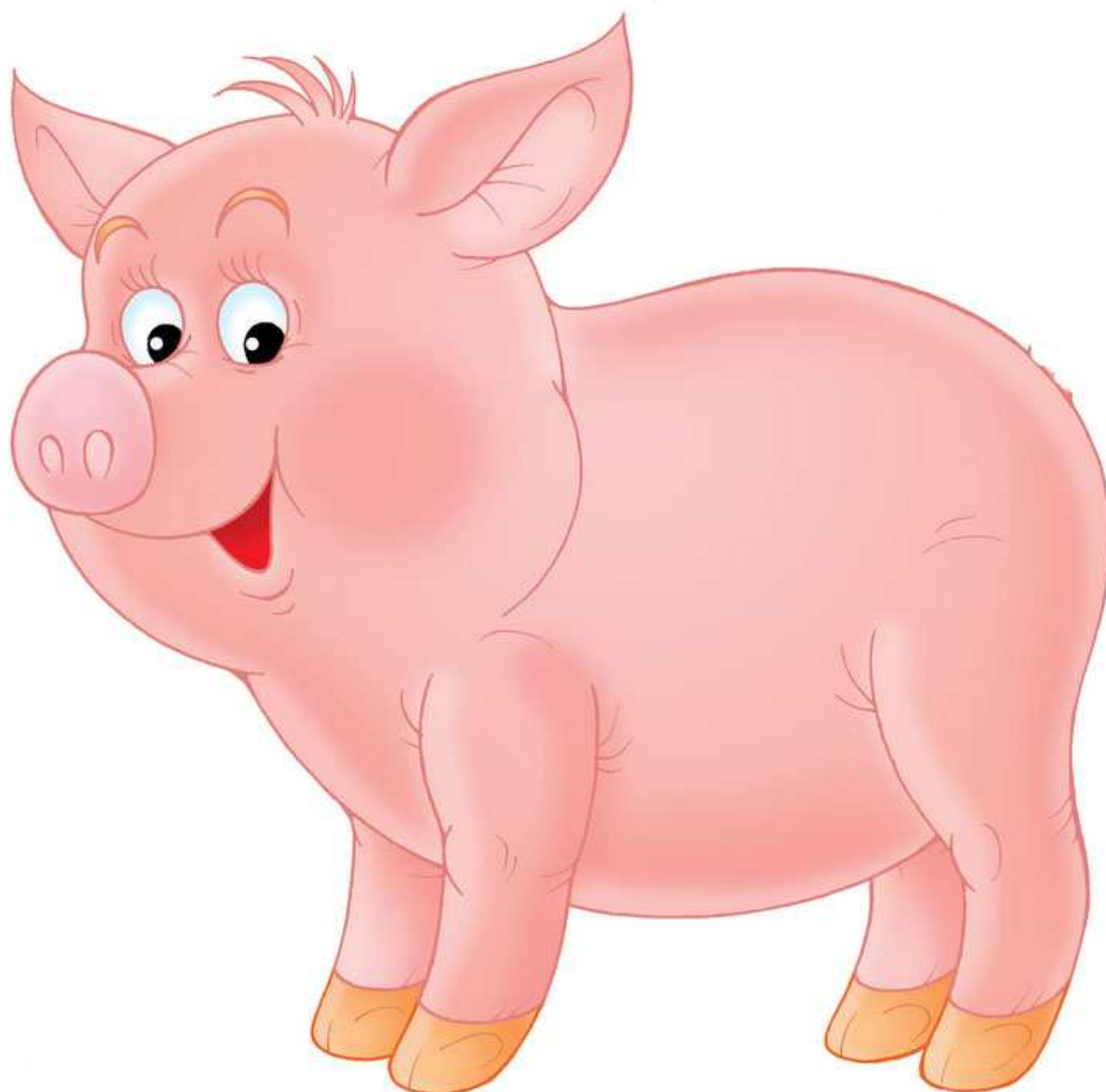
black pipe cleaners  
markers or crayons  
coffee filters

Color/decorate a coffee filter with markers or crayons.

Scrunch the filter and wrap the pipe cleaner around it so that the filter resembles butterfly wings and the pipe cleaner makes antennae.

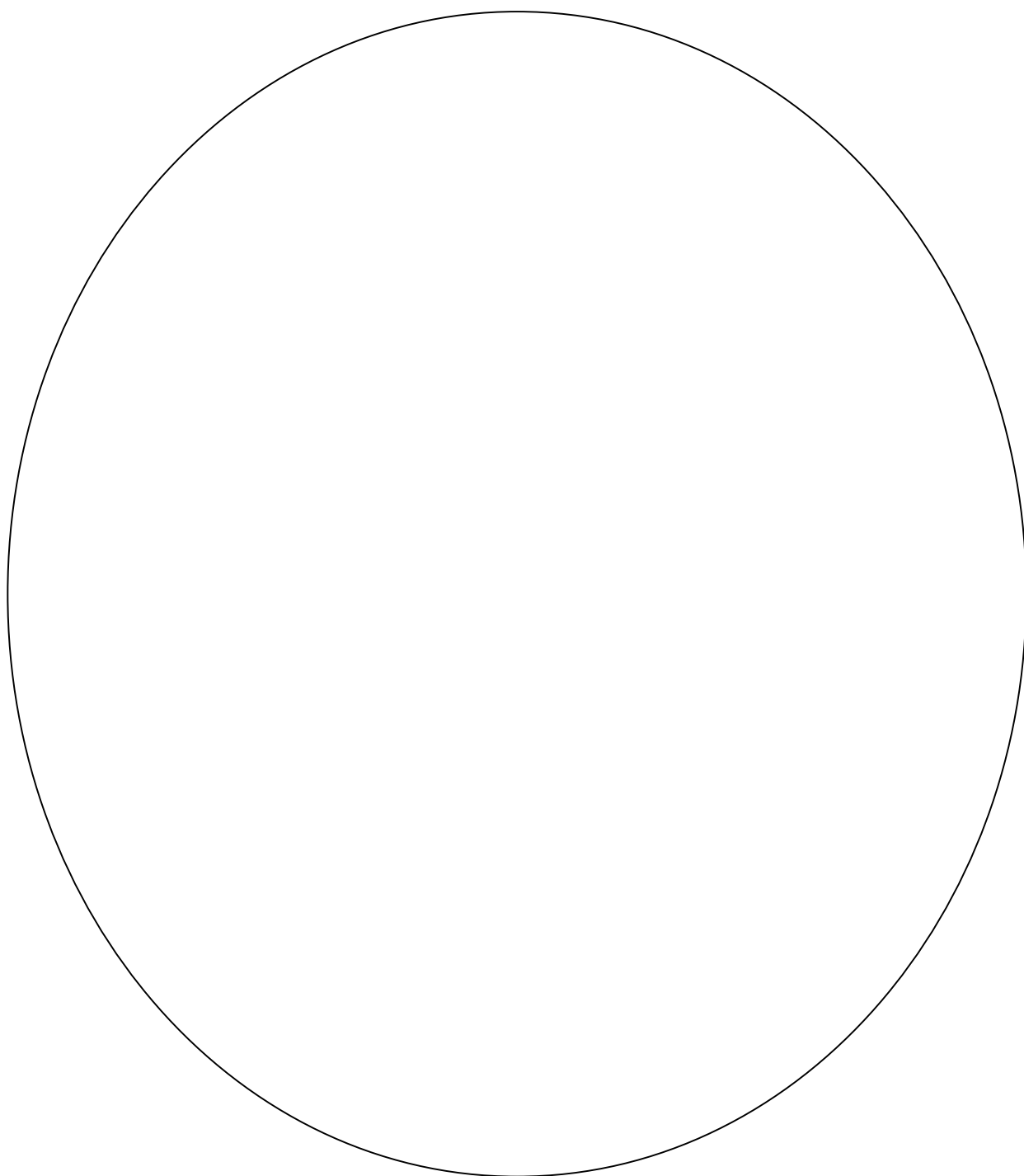
**Make Some Noise:** At the very end of the party, assign kids to be lions, elephants, and gorillas. Read the final poem, “Stampede,” again and see which animal group can make the loudest stampede!

# Pin the Tail on the Pig

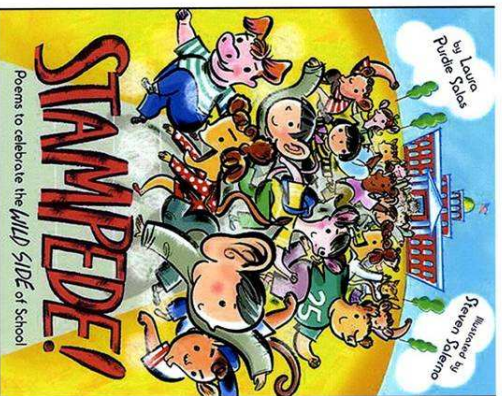


# My Animal!

Draw a picture of your pet or your favorite animal or the animal you wish you could be!







Cover art illustration © Steven Salerno

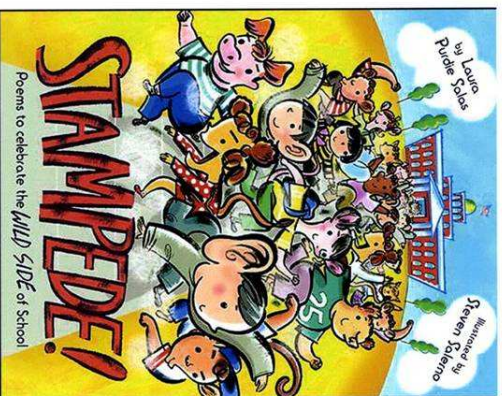
The last bell rings.  
We spill outside,  
like captives finally freed.

We're thundering, fumbling  
elephants--  
an after-school stampede!

*Write wild!*  
*Laura Purdie Salas*

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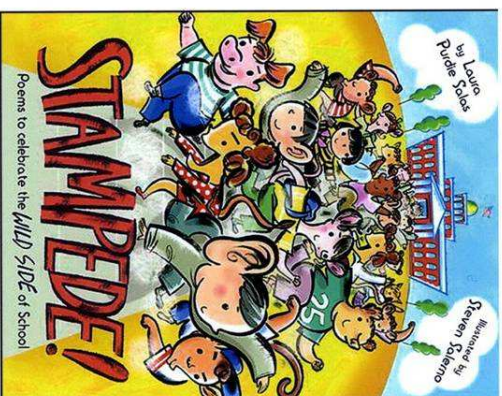
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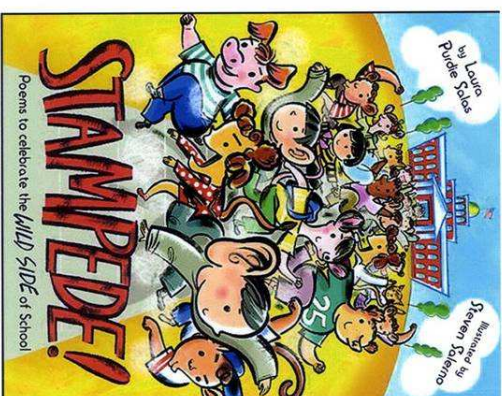
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