**Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember**  
by Steve Jenkins  
2009  
ISBN: 061896620X

**Comprehension/Critical Literacy**  
Lesson Plan by Lana Voss  
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**Focus:** Use concepts in *Never Smile at a Monkey* to construct appropriate meaning.

**Pass Objectives:**
5.1a Read and comprehend fiction and nonfiction that is appropriately designed for second grade.
5.1b Use pre-reading strategies to preview, activate prior knowledge, make predictions, use picture clues, and establish the purpose for reading (i.e. graphic organizers).
5.1c Ask and respond to questions to aid comprehension about important elements of fiction and nonfiction.
5.2b Support interpretations or conclusions with example taken from the text.
5.4a Identify cause and effect relationships in a text.

**Supplies & Suggestions:** Visit the school library and public library to find books about dangerous animals. Check out several copies of *Never Smile at a Monkey* by Steve Jenkins. Make predictions by using picture clues and cause and effect. Although Jenkins’ books are nonfiction, could you create a lesson or moral for your favorite dangerous animal featured in *Never Smile at a Monkey*.

**Book Suggestions:**

*Animals Nobody Loves* by Seymour Simon  
*Dangerous Animals* by Rebecca Gilpin  
*Youch! it Bites!: Real-life Monsters Up Close* by Trevor Day