

Jane Goodall: Great Moments in Record Keeping
By Pat Betteley

CHARACTERS: *Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3, Jane, Mom, Judy, Scientist, Master of Ceremonies*

NARRATOR 1: In England in 1939, four-year-old Jane Goodall was laying flat on her stomach looking at the ground.

MOM: Jane, what are you looking at?

JANE: This worm, mum. Its body gets fat and then skinny as it moves. Then when it digs, its body wiggles into the dirt. I'm going to make it a house and keep it as a pet.

MOM: I've never seen a girl that loves to watch animals as much as you do!

NARRATOR 2: Two years later, six-year-old Jane was sitting in a hot, smelly chicken coop. She was on a mission.

JANE: I've got to find out where eggs come from. I don't think there's an opening in a hen that's big enough for an egg to come out!

NARRATOR 1: Jane tried not to move a muscle as she sat quietly and watched. And watched. Five long hours later, it happened! She ran to tell her mom.

JANE: (*panting from running*) Mum, I saw it!

MOM: Jane, where have you been? I've been so worried. Half the town is out looking for you!

JANE: Sorry, mum. But I saw the hen lay an egg. She lifted her body up, and a white egg fell from between her legs. It landed—PLOP! Right on the straw!

MOM: (*shaking her head*) I've never seen a girl that loves to watch animals as much as you do!

NARRATOR 2: When she was 12, Jane started her own nature group with her sister, Judy, and some friends. They camped out in the garden and took nature walks.

JANE: Welcome to our Alligator Club meeting. The first item of business is our club newsletter—the *Alligator Society Magazine*. I've made some drawings of insects and taken some notes about things in nature to put into our first issue. Judy, can you write some fun nature quizzes?

JUDY: Sure.

JANE: Next, we need to think of a way to earn some money. There's a farm down the road that takes care of old, unwanted horses. They need our help.

NARRATOR 1: The Alligator Club came up with a plan.

JANE: Welcome to our Nature Museum. On this table, you will notice LIVE tortoises and guinea pigs.

JUDY: And over here are the birds' eggs and seashells.

JANE: And our star attraction is . . . a human skeleton. (*whispering to her sister*) It sure pays to have an uncle who's a surgeon!

NARRATOR 3: After she grew up, Jane still devoted her life to animals. She became famous for studying chimpanzees in Africa.

NARRATOR 1: Jane would get up before dawn, fill her pockets with pencils and notebooks, and hike up a steep, rocky hill through thorns and scrubby brush to observe the chimps.

JANE: This is so frustrating! They won't let me near them.

NARRATOR 2: Jane used binoculars to watch the chimp's daily lives and took notes on everything she saw.

JANE: The chimps seem to move around in small groups. They like to eat their veggies, nuts, fruits, seeds, and leaves.

NARRATOR 3: Soon she began naming the chimps so she could write about them more easily.

JANE: That one with the short, gray beard on his chin will be David Graybeard, and the big strong one over there – that's Goliath. And look at the hair on that chimp! I'll call it Ollie, because the hair reminds me of Aunt Olwen's.

NARRATOR 1: Jane would return to camp late at night, after a full day of observing chimps. Then she would stay up past midnight copying her notes into her journals. Her mom just shook her head and smiled.

MOM: I've never seen a girl that loves to watch animals as much as Jane does!

NARRATOR 2: Finally, the chimps got used to Jane, and even began to visit her at her camp to get bananas.

NARRATOR 3: One day, Jane discovered three chimps sharing a piglet they had caught.

JANE: What? Chimps eat meat? This is HUGE news! Up 'til now, scientists thought chimps were plant eaters.

NARRATOR 1: Ants were another treat for the chimps. One day, Jane came across David Graybeard at an ant hill. He picked a branch from a tree, and carefully stuck it into the nest.

JANE: Look how the ants cling to the stick! Why, he's using the stick to fish for ants! And humans think that we're the only ones who use tools!

NARRATOR 2: At first, scientists didn't want to accept Jane's research.

SCIENTIST: A REAL scientist would give the animals numbers, not names! And she says that chimps show anger, sadness, and even love. Ridiculous! Doesn't she know that only humans have feelings?

NARRATOR 3: Jane went to college and got a degree, and then other scientists believed she was qualified to do research.

NARRATOR 1: Today, after studying chimps for 45 years, Jane speaks out about her concern for the future.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Ladies and gentleman, our speaker this evening has worked tirelessly to record observations and keep careful records. She has studied monkeys and the way they act for almost half a century. I give you. . . Dr. JANE Goodall, famous researcher, primatologist, and animal behaviorist. *(applause)*

JANE: There are hunters who will shoot mother chimpanzees, steal their babies, and sell them to zoos, circuses, or for pets. The chimpanzees need our help. My greatest hope is that young people all around the world will become aware of the problems and help solve them. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference!

NARRATOR 2: And no one knows more about making a difference than Jane Goodall, a great record keeper who does what she loves, and loves what she does!