

Core Skills Analysis

Language Arts

- Aubree identified the main plot structure of Zootopia, recognizing the exposition, rising action, climax, and resolution.
- She compared the motivations of characters like Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde, practicing character analysis and perspective taking.
- Aubree noted recurring themes such as prejudice and perseverance, connecting them to real-world ideas and expanding her inferential comprehension.
- She recognized dialogue cues and vocabulary related to law enforcement and urban life, strengthening her listening and vocabulary skills.

Social Studies

- Aubree observed how Zootopia models a diverse, multicultural society, prompting discussion of stereotypes and inclusion.
- She recognized the concept of a city with districts organized by animal habitats, linking geography to human urban planning.
- The film's portrayal of bias and social mobility sparked awareness of civil rights and equity issues relevant to U.S. civics.
- Aubree connected the idea of "safety in numbers" to community cooperation and civic responsibility.

Science

- Aubree noted biological adaptations of different animal species, comparing real-world traits (e.g., a cheetah's speed) to their animated portrayals.
- She recognized food-chain relationships when predators and prey were discussed, reinforcing ecosystem concepts.
- The movie's depiction of climate zones within the city (e.g., Tundratown, Sahara Square) introduced basic climate and habitat diversity.
- Aubree questioned the feasibility of mixed-species interactions, prompting scientific inquiry about animal behavior.

Media Literacy

- Aubree practiced discerning fact from creative exaggeration by comparing animated animal abilities to actual biology.
- She identified cinematic techniques (music cues, color palettes) that influence emotional response, developing critical viewing skills.
- Aubree recognized the film's target audience and purpose, evaluating how storytelling conveys moral lessons.
- She reflected on the role of animation as a medium for discussing complex social issues in an age-appropriate way.

Tips

To deepen Aubree's learning, try a "Character Diary" project where she writes journal entries from Judy's or Nick's perspective, reinforcing empathy and narrative voice. Follow up with a classroom-style debate on the film's message about stereotypes, using evidence from specific scenes to support arguments. Create a "Zootopia City Map" where Aubree labels each district, research real-world

equivalents, and discuss how geography shapes culture. Finally, conduct a simple animal-adaptation experiment—like testing how different shoe soles perform on various surfaces—to connect the movie's fantastical traits to real physics.

Book Recommendations

- [The One and Only Ivan](#) by Katherine Applegate: A heart-warming story of a gorilla who learns about art, friendship, and freedom, echoing themes of empathy and justice.
- [The Great Kapok Tree](#) by Lydia Maria Child: A lyrical tale about rainforest animals protecting their forest home, linking biodiversity to conservation.
- [The Jungle Book](#) by Rudyard Kipling: Classic adventures of a boy raised by animals, offering opportunities to compare real animal behavior with fictional storytelling.

Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2 – Determine a central idea of a text and explain how it is conveyed through characters, setting, and plot.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3 – Analyze how characters respond to challenges.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.7 – Interpret information presented visually, such as maps and charts.
- NGSS 4-LS1-1 – Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.
- CA.C3.1.4 – Explain the influence of culture, geography, and social institutions on people's lives.

Try This Next

- Worksheet: Fill-in-the-blank plot diagram with scenes from Zootopia.
- Quiz: Match each Zootopia district to its real-world climate and habitat characteristics.