

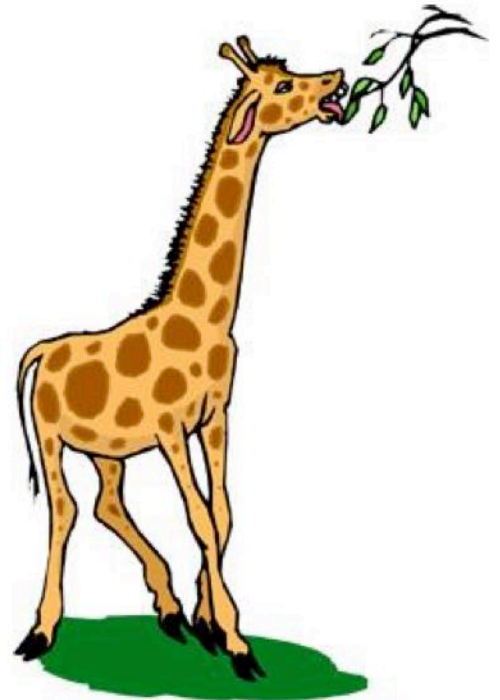
Jilly the Giraffe

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Jilly the giraffe lived at the Morgan Zoo. She had been there for a long time and was friends with all the other giraffes. There was just one problem. Jilly was so much taller than all the other giraffes that she felt out of place. When she roamed around slowly on hot days, she had to duck all the time to get past some of the trees. The other giraffes just walked along without any problem. She couldn't help but wonder as she walked along: *Why can't I be like them? I get so tired of bending down to get past all these trees.*

One day Jilly was chewing on some leaves when she saw one of her giraffe friends, named Granite, struggling to reach some leaves on the other trees. *I wish I was tall enough to reach those leaves* the other giraffe said to himself. Jilly wandered over near him and asked, "What's wrong?" The giraffe said, "I'm having trouble reaching the leaves off these trees." "I wish I were as tall as you so I wouldn't have any trouble getting my food." "You want to be as tall as I am?" asked Jilly. "I always wanted to be shorter so I wouldn't have to bend down to get past all these trees." "Oh, you are so lucky being tall." "This way whenever you want food, you don't need any help." With that, Jilly pulled down the leaves for Granite. Suddenly two more giraffes came along and asked if Jilly would get them some leaves. "Sure," said Jilly. "I would be glad to help you get some leaves."

After all the giraffes had their food that day, Jilly started back to the other side of the zoo to rest. She felt so happy and proud that she was able to help the other giraffes get their food from the tall trees. *It is amazing that I wanted to be shorter like them, and they wanted to be taller like me* she thought to herself. The lesson that Jilly learned that day was to be happy with who you are and to do your best every day.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Where did the story take place?
 - A. At a farm
 - B. At a zoo
 - C. At a park
 - D. At a ranch

2. What was Jilly's problem?
 - A. She couldn't walk.
 - B. She couldn't sleep.
 - C. She thought she was too tall.
 - D. She was lonely.

3. Who was Granite?
 - A. A zookeeper
 - B. A visitor
 - C. A giraffe
 - D. A tiger

4. How many giraffes did Jilly help?
 - A. One
 - B. Five
 - C. Three
 - D. Two

5. How did Jilly feel at the end of the story?
 - A. Happy and proud
 - B. Mean and angry
 - C. Lonely and sad
 - D. None of the above

Jilly the Giraffe - Answers

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