Language: Content of “Down by the Cool of the Pool”

Materials: Tony Mitton recording

It may be best to do this activity in the children’s mother tongue.

1. Once the children have worked with the story, ask them what they think about it.
2. Guide the children to the part of all the animals playing together. Ask them if it is easy for them to play with other children.
3. Ask the children what they think about the ending of the story.
4. Play the recording until “We’re having fun, dancing our dance in the cool of the pool.”
5. Ask the children to imagine another ending for the story; for example a large elephant jumps into the pool while the animals are playing, or imagine the teacher or one of their parents comes along to break up the party.
6. Finally, divide the animals among the children and ask them to imagine what the animal might do next.

The conversation with the children could raise the topic of being able to play together. Like the animals each having their own dance, you may want to focus on how the children all like to play differently.

Imagining another ending to the story can involve students in the stories they read, imagining other possibilities.