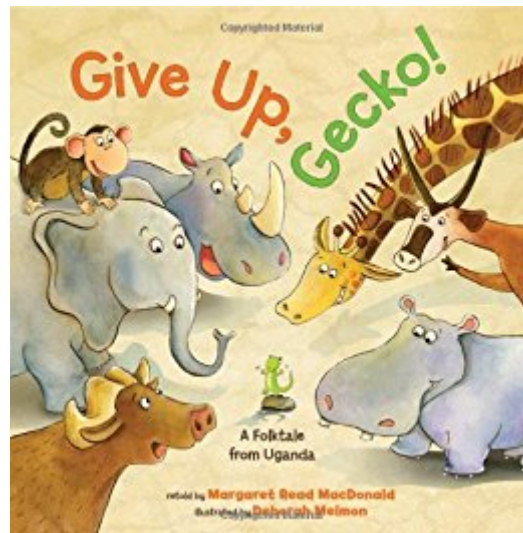


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# Give Up, Gecko!



## Synopsis

â œElephant! Elephant! Heavy! Heavy! Heavy! Elephant! Elephant! STOMP! STOMP! STOMP!â • Elephant was shouting and stomping. But could he stomp a hole deep enough to reach water for the thirsty animals? Maybeâ |maybe not. All the animals tried until tiny Gecko Gecko takes a turn. He is small...but he is determined. And he's not going to give up! Kids will love to chant and stomp along to this Ugandan folktale.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am always excited to see a new book by Margaret Read MacDonald. She makes my job as a library story time reader so much easier! Give Up, Gecko is yet another fun, beautifully told folktale that is sure to capture the imaginations of young story listeners. The text has the perfect read aloud rhythm, and the repeating chant offers up plenty of opportunity for audience participation. I probably won't be using this for my preschool groups because of its length, but it is a perfect match for grades K-3 and will be an ideal purchase for any teacher looking for a jumping off place for discussions of animals, and the water shortages that plague many countries in Africa. Aside from that perfect read aloud flow, the author also includes just the right amount of humor to keep young

listeners on their toes and paying attention. Don't be surprised if your circle time quickly dissolves into lots of giggles and stomping! Since this story also features a nice lesson about perseverance and sharing, this little tale about not giving up turns into a classic that belongs on every story time or classroom shelf. The cartoon illustrations are done primarily in browns and grays, with each animal well defined and very expressive. The expressions of joy and dismay add to the text, providing lots to look at for repeat readings. My favorite character was of course the gecko. The looks on his face as he stomps his tiny feet were priceless and the perfect pairing for the energetic text. Give Up, Gecko! is an enthusiastic recommend!

A cute story - but please, can we write children's books in complete sentences? Make some effort to teach grammar in them? I found myself wanting to reword this story as I read it aloud to my 4-year old - it's markedly less sophisticated than most stories for this age group. In the end, the story wasn't cute enough to warrant using up our read-aloud time with a book that teaches no vocabulary and is mostly composed of sentence fragments. Borrow it from the library, read the story once, talk about the values of perseverance, and move on to something else for repeated reading.

After spending time in Thailand, my 2 year old son was afraid of geckos. This book is great on many levels - first, it's an African story and we love to bring diversity into our family reading, second the underdog keeps at it and saves the day and lastly, even if you are little your contributions matter to the group/family.

Give Up, Gecko! is a folktale from Uganda that has been retold by Margaret Read MacDonald and accompanied by illustrations from Deborah Melmon. I chose this story for my preschool-aged daughters because we talk a lot about perseverance, and I thought this might be a good conversation starter. In the book, the animals are trying to find water. They decide to take turns digging, and the animal who finds water will be the new chief. The heavy animals go first-- elephant, rhino, hippo and giraffe-- but quickly give up. Next are the medium-sized animals-- monkey, warthog and hyena-- who also give up. The small animals-- rabbit and iguana-- take a turn but feel too useless to keep going. Last comes tiny Gecko who surprises everyone by stomping and stomping and stomping despite pressure from the others to "Give Up, Gecko!" Our whole family really enjoys this book. Gecko's tenacity is charming, and it's a great lesson about persistence (aside from the classic, "I think I can!"). My children especially enjoy the lyrical chant that Gecko uses to keep himself motivated as he digs: "Gecko! Gecko! Heavy! Heavy! Heavy! Gecko! Gecko! Stomp! Stomp!

Stomp!"And they are excited to cheer him on even when the other animals don't. My wife and I both enjoy reading it because it is easy to stay engaged with the lively text. Another positive to Give Up, Gecko! is the illustration by Deborah Melmon. The artwork conveys a lot of character, and the animals show a lot of emotions through their facial expressions. It's always nice to find a book with illustrations that really add to the story. Give Up, Gecko! is a wonderful book that I can happily share with my daughters. We love folktales, and this one is excellent. I highly recommend it.

Give Up, Gecko is an enjoyable children's book about the importance of perseverance. The story revolves around the animal's search for water. All the animals try to stomp their way to water but give up one by one, until the smallest animal, the gecko is the only one left. Although the other animals laugh at him and repeatedly call for him to quit, the Gecko keeps up his stomping for hours until he succeeds. Margaret MacDonald's prose is clear and repetitive which is great for younger children, however it is the artwork by Deborah Melmon that is truly outstanding- the colors are vivid and bright and the illustrations fill the entire page. Our 1 year old son was mesmerized by the book and we look forward to reading it to him many times more. A great addition to any child's bookshelf.

I picked this story up on the kindle for my sons nightly bedtime story. The story itself provides the lesson to never give up and to never underestimate someone's size. The Gecko is the hero of the story obviously but provides a positive lesson for kids. It's an easy, quick read with excellent graphics. I would highly recommend for someone that enjoys making bedtime reading fun. Check it out today and the price is perfect.

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