



# Animal Tails:

*explorations of the animal world through connections to literature*



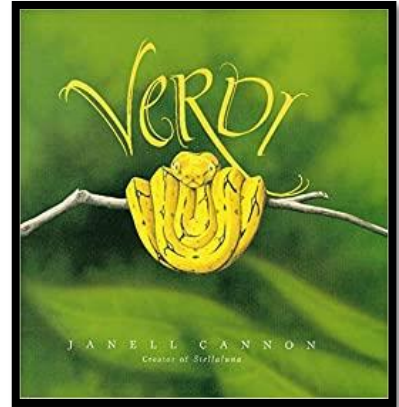
## **Verdi**

by Jannell Cannon

**Age:** grades 1-5

### **Gather your Gear**

- Verdi book or log on to watch the storybook reading
- Phone/video call
- Adult
- Paper
- Pencil/pen
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils



### **Get Ready**

*You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before reading the story.*

- What types of animals have you seen at a zoo?
- What do you know about snakes?
- What are some of your favorite adults? What do you like most about them?

### **Read**

*Read the book, stopping to explore key story ideas. Below are some prompts to help guide you.*

Why do you think Verdi doesn't want to grow up and turn green?

### **Reflect**

*Briefly discuss what was important or what we learned. Below are some questions to guide you.*

- Have you ever tried to stop something you didn't want to happen? What was it and why?
- What have you learned from adults in your life that you think is important?



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## Relate

*Create connections to the idea through activities.*

### **Activity 1: Storytellers' Scribe**

In this activity you will record a story from the childhood of an adult who is important to you.

1. Gather your paper and pencil, a phone, and an adult to help you dial (unless you are talking to an adult you live with).
2. With your materials in hand, get in touch with an adult that you admire, and ask them to share their favorite childhood memory or story.
3. As they talk, record their story. This can be done in words, pictures, or both. Spend time asking them follow-up questions such as: "How did you feel while this was happening?", "Did you ever do that again?", "Did you learn anything from this experience?"
4. After you and your adult have finished your conversation, time to review what you recorded.
5. Go back over your work, treating it like a rough draft. What do you like about what you wrote or drew? What do you want to change to make it truer to the story?
6. When you've identified ways to make your work better reflect the story, create a second copy of the story. This copy will be shared with the person whose story you've written down.
7. Once your second copy is complete, with the help of an adult you live with, share your work with the adult who shared their story with you. You can mail it to them, send them pictures of it, or video chat with them to show it to them "in-person."
8. As a bonus, add your own story to share with them when you are showing them what you did with theirs, and don't forget to thank them for spending time and sharing with you!

### **Activity 2: Shared Experiences**

In this activity, you will work with an adult who is important to you to learn something new from them. This could be a new skill, new recipe, new language, a game, the sky's the limit here!

1. Talk to an adult that has played an important role in life. Ask them about things they liked to do when they were younger, things they enjoy doing now, and if they would be willing to spend some time teaching you something that they enjoy.
2. Once you have agreed on something they can do that you want to learn, set a time and gather what you need. If you are going to learn how to cook something or do anything that requires tools, make sure you have an adult present to help you.
3. All you have left to do now is take the time to learn from them, and don't forget to thank them for teaching you.
4. Once you've learned from them, think of something that you like to do that you could teach them, a sibling, or a friend, and pass along the experience.



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## **Did you know:**

- It can take six to eight months for green tree pythons to turn completely green.
- Being green helps this species of python blend in, or camouflage, with the trees in which they live.
- In addition to yellow, green tree python babies, known as hatchlings, can be red or brown.
- Green tree pythons are non-venomous.
- These pythons are known to eat lizards, birds, and other small vertebrates.
- Green tree pythons can use their tails to catch prey by wiggling them to get a prey animal close enough for the snake to bite.
- Like several other species of snake, these pythons can see heat! This is a useful skill for hunting warm-blooded prey, though not quite as helpful when hunting lizards.



## **It takes a team.... join ours**

Help us save species by joining the “Zoo Conservation Corps” and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If you or your family are on social media, post to share with your family and friends what you have learned. Use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

## **Want to know more....**

- Go to Zoo Atlanta’s website to learn about the reptiles that live at Zoo Atlanta: [www.zooatlanta.org/animals](http://www.zooatlanta.org/animals)
- Check out the Smithsonian National Zoo for additional information on the green tree python: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/green-tree-python>