

# Me...Jane

Recommended for Grades K-3

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## **Book Summary: Me...Jane**

Jane and her toy chimpanzee loved to be outside and observe the wonders of nature. When she wasn't outside and learning through watching, she was inside reading books about animals and nature. She would read about Jane in *Tarzan of the Apes* and imagine herself in Africa too. She dreamed about going to help the animals until the day came when she found herself in Africa doing what she always hoped to do.

## **Author Biography: Patrick McDonnell**

Patrick McDonnell was born March 17, 1956 in Edison, New Jersey. He graduated from the School of Visual Arts in New York in 1978 and began a career of magazine illustrating with the Russell Baker Observer column for the New York Times which he held from 1978-1993. In most of his illustrations, he would include a dog in the background. During that time, he also did work for *Sports Illustrated*, *Time*, *Forbes* and *Readers Digest*. He is best well known for the creation of the Mutts comics. His work has won him a number of awards, including the Bob Clampett Humanitarian Award in 2011 and the Harvey Award for Best Comic Strip.

He and his wife, Karen, currently live in New Jersey.



Oswego Campus  
32 W Jefferson Street  
Oswego, IL 60543  
[www.oswego.lib.il.us](http://www.oswego.lib.il.us)

Montgomery Campus  
1111 Reading Drive  
Montgomery, IL 60538  
(630) 978-1272

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## Discussion Questions: Me...Jane

1. Jane loved to go outside. Why do you think she found the outside so enjoyable?
2. When she was outside, Jane would observe things in nature. What kinds of things do you enjoy doing outside? How do you think Jane's hobbies when she was young led her to the career she has today?
3. Jane learned about her world not only by observing it, but by reading about it. Which kind of learning do you think is more important—reading about something or experiencing it? Why? Which do you prefer to do?
4. When Jane was curious where eggs came from, she snuck into the chicken coop and waited until she found out. Have you ever been curious and investigated something? What happened?
5. One of Jane's favorite places was up a tree she named Beech. What kinds of things do you think she could observe from the tree? Where is your favorite place to be? Why do you enjoy it?
6. Jane would often read a book in which another girl named Jane lived in Africa. Do you ever read a book and imagine yourself someplace else? Why do you think she found Africa so exciting?
7. How did Jane's dream come true? What do you think it would be like to live in Africa? What is a place that you would like to live someday?
8. The author illustrates the story with drawings until he includes a real picture on the last page of the story. Why do you think he chose to do this? What effect does it have on the story? Do you think this was a good choice? Why or why not?
9. How does this drawing style influence how the story is told? Do you think drawings work better for this story than real pictures of Jane? Why or why not?
10. If someone wrote a book about your life, would you want the pictures to be drawings or photographs? Why?



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