

Katrin and the World of Animals

Katrin and the World of Animals was produced by Context TV GmbH based in Germany. Katrin loves animals and even more than that, she can also listen to them. From questions like “Do elephants have tooth pain?” up to “Why do wolves really howl?”, Katrin is interested in every single aspect of an animal’s life. Her uncle Andreas works at the local zoo and is able to help his niece. Together they discover the world of animals. At the same time Katrin is quite a normal girl, who has to cope with school, friends and all the other regular aspects of life. Katrin has a problem, her birthday party starts in a few hours and the bell won’t ring. How should she open the door and maintain her party at the same time? Is there an animal trick that helps? Yes, the Meerkats are changing their team-mates when watching their homes, so everyone could do different things at the same time. Knowing this, Katrin has her solution: Every friend has to wait outside until the next one arrives, who then opens the door. By doing so everyone could enjoy the party ... but really everyone ... not really, as you may guess!

Katrin and the World of Animals was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2010 finalists in the 7-11 Non-Fiction category.

International experts’ opinions



Figure 1: Katrin’s door bell is not ringing.



Figure 2: Katrin loves to take pictures of animals.

The international experts had mixed views of this program. They admired the story of animals but could not connect it with the partying in the home. “The bit about the animals was interesting – a little bit limp, but the other story – it felt out of the way” (female expert, Sweden). They were also disappointed with the character of the girl. “The girl didn’t come up with a solution herself. The man told her to do that – he told her. I thought: she should have at least come up with the solution herself” (female expert, UK). They could not understand the theme behind the program. “I thought it was a bit too contrived; the script was stretching just too far. I sort of felt somewhat:



Figure 3: She is curious to know about meerkats



Figure 4: The program provides a lot of information about meerkats.



Figure 5: The program also has animated story about meerkats.

so what, the doorbell doesn't work! There was a sort of nice set of energy. There was a nice moment where she got friends to do it, but it was pretty: so what?" (male expert, UK). Some thought that the story was not focused: "If they only did that with the animals – they should have focused on the animals" (female expert, Turkey).

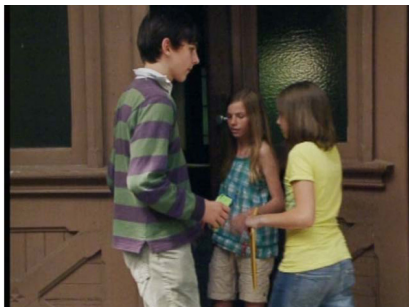


Figure 6: The guests at Katrin's party act like meerkats.

However, few international experts found the idea the program presented of educating the children about animals an interesting one. "The idea that there was one small piece of information – the one that clearly talks about meerkats – that kids would learn about meerkats. They just went entirely around it indirectly, but by the end of the

episode it is very likely that kids would understand something about that animal. I thought it was compelling" (male expert, USA). A female expert from Israel commented that it was an original way to combine animals and children to create an interest in the audience.



Figure 7: Katrin explains about meerkats to her friends.



Figure 8: Kids enjoying the party.

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