Polar Bear Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?

Bill Martin Jr.

Children will chant the rhythmic words. They’ll make the sounds the animals make. And they’ll pretend to be the zoo animals featured in the book—look at the last page!

**Activity:** Before you begin reading *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* take a picture walk with children. Ask them what they think the story will be about. Then read the book to children. After reading, ask your children to tell you what happened in the story. Ask children, “What does the polar bear hear?” Talk about some of the words in the story such as “bellowing,” “yelping,” and “trumpeting.” Explain that these are all words that mean a loud kind of noise. Ask children, “What other noisy words can you find in this book?”

Make up another story using your child’s name:

**You:** (Nicholas), (Nicholas), what do you hear?

**Child:** I hear a ________ ________.

Some examples your child might use are clock ticking, car honking, or bird singing.

**Continue the Activity:**
Repeat the story with your child. Each animal in the book makes a different sound. Look at each animal and make the sound it makes. For example, roar like a lion, hiss like a snake, or bray like a zebra. **Encourage your child to mimic the animal sounds.**

The animals in *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* appear in a particular sequence. Challenge your child to remember the order of appearance of each animal.