

Gorilla

Review Key Words¹

- avoid** Avoid means to stay away from.
- bond** Bond means to form a close relationship.
- mature** Mature means completely grown or fully developed.
- shy** Shy means quiet, nervous, or uncomfortable around others.



Read the Story²⁻⁴

6 Gorilla! The very word may bring
 14 up scary **images** in your mind. To many
 19 people, gorillas seem frightening. They
 26 are large animals, and people often think
 32 they look mean. But **actually**, gorillas
 40 are **shy**. They do not want to eat
 46 people. They eat mostly fruit and
 leaves.

47 Gorillas sometimes **pound** their
 51 chests. But they are not trying to start a
 60 fight. Gorillas use chest pounding to
 66 **avoid** fights. When an **enemy** comes
 72 near, a gorilla makes noise and tries to
 80 look frightening. The enemy may get
 86 scared and run away. If the enemy does
 94 not leave, the gorilla **usually** will.

100 **Actual** fights are **uncommon**.

104 Gorillas usually live in small groups.
 110 A **mature** male gorilla protects the
 116 group and decides where the group
 122 should go. Female gorillas spend a lot
 129 of time with their babies. They also
 136 **groom** the others in the group. They
 143 use their fingers—and sometimes their
 149 teeth—to clean the other gorillas' hair.
 156 This grooming helps the group members
 162 **bond**.

163 Gorillas are certainly not the
 168 **aggressive** beasts that some people
 173 think. In many ways, they are more
 180 peaceful than humans!
 183

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
- number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Gorilla

Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
 - a. Gorillas sometimes pound their chests.
 - b. Gorillas often live in small groups.
 - c. Gorillas are peaceful animals.
2. What do gorillas mostly eat?
 - a. fruit and leaves
 - b. people
 - c. their enemies
3. What does the word **pound** mean in this story?
 - a. an amount of weight
 - b. to hit or stomp hard
 - c. a place for lost animals
4. How does a gorilla try to avoid fights?
 - a. by living in a small group
 - b. by grooming other group members
 - c. by pounding his chest
5. In what ways are gorillas more peaceful than some humans?

6. Match each word with its definition.
 1. uncommon a. ___ forceful
 2. aggressive b. ___ pictures
 3. groom c. ___ not often seen
 4. images d. ___ to make clean

Parent Tips

One important goal of weekly fluency practice is to make students automatic readers. A reader who has to sound out each word cannot focus on the meaning of what is being read. "Fluency is, in a sense, a bridge between phonics and word decoding on one hand, and vocabulary (word meaning) and comprehension (passage meaning) on the other. Fluency means making readers' decoding skills so automatic that they can focus on the meaning of the passage."

--Tim Rasinski, *Fluency: An Oft Neglected Goal of the Reading Program*