

The Girl Who Wanted to Become a Zookeeper

By Lucy N, 1VH

This is Aoife. Aoife likes zoos and she has always wanted to look after animals. One day at school she went to the woods and saw a bird; this gave her an idea. She thought she could take the bird home and start a zoo in her own house; her Mummy and Daddy did not think this was a good idea.

Daddy said "Tell you what Aoife, we'll go to the zoo on Saturday and see if you can help somewhere".

On Saturday Aoife was VERY excited. She wore her warmest jumper, a bodywarmer and trousers that no-one would mind if they got dirty. She also wore her favourite turquoise wellies.

The lady looking after the Tiger said "i don't think you helping here is a good idea; Mr Tiger gets very hungry and might gobble you up".

The man looking after the crocodiles said "oh no, this is NOT a place for little people".

The donkey-lady whose name was Alice was much more enthusiastic about having a helper. The donkeys were called Gina and George. First Aoife helped to brush them until their coats were gleaming, then she put fresh water in their buckets and found carrots for their tea. George wandered off.

"Thank you for the carrots" came a soft voice. Aoife jumped, the voice didn't sound like Alice. Aoife looked round but the only thing there was Gina. Aoife looked hard at Gina "was that you Gina?"

"Yes, of course. You silly humans always think we can't talk".

Aoife did not know what to say. She had so many questions. Gina seemed to know this; "You can ask me 3 questions" she said.

Aoife thought carefully; she didn't want to waste one.

"What do you like eating?"

Gina thought for a moment "I don't want you to think I'm ungrateful; carrots are ok I suppose but a bit boring. I really like candyfloss especially pink candyfloss".

Gina seemed to be a long way away. "I remember when i was a little donkey, probably about your age. I used to walk up and down on the beach with my friends with little children on our backs. If it was windy the candy floss would travel on the wind and land on my nose. It was delicious. I so wished i could have a whole one."

Aoife was so surprised she almost sat down in a bucket of water.

"Where were you born?"

"I was born in the countryside. My mother Olivia belonged to a rich lady called Rachel who needed a donkey to keep her horse company when she was out. The countryside was very green and pleasant with lots of flowers. I particularly liked eating the yellow ones; they were very tasty."

"How did you meet George?"

Rachel took me for a walk one day and we passed a field with some ponies and a donkey in it. George came over and told me off for letting a human know we could talk. He said if the humans knew we could talk they would make us do their Maths homework for them. I didn't even know what maths homework was but George told me that was for the best! Rachel could see what a nice chat we were having so she invited him home for tea and he has never left. Rachel's daughter is called Alice and she brought us to the zoo so that we could make the children who come here smile. We like living here!".

Aoife went home having had a lovely day; she will try and bring some candyfloss for Gina when she comes back.