



## **I Yam A Donkey**

story, pictures, and bad grammar by : Cece Bell

Confusion abounds when a poorly spoken donkey says to a grammarian yam, "I Yam a Donkey!" This is a humorous introduction to the different tenses of the auxiliary verb "to be."

**Award:** ALA Notable Children's Book Award 2016

**Author/ Illustrator Website:** <https://cecebell.wordpress.com/>

**Book Trailer/Author interview:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jax87nJ-eJQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjnHI3JtamE>

**Other Websites/links:**

*I Yam A Donkey* stickers: <http://hmhyoungreadersblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/iyamadonkeystickerscutlines.pdf>

<http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=3794#comment-2329866>

**Food:**

Sweet Potato Biscuits: <http://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/recipes/a892/sweet-potato-biscuits-2994/>

Sweet Potato Scones: <http://www.food.com/recipe/sweet-potato-scones-293580>

Sweet Potato Chips: <http://www.superhealthykids.com/sweet-potato-chips-739/>

**Nonfiction Titles:**

Leaf, Munro. *How to Speak Politely and Why*

Carter, Andrew. *Grammar Ray: A Graphic Guide to Grammar* (Series)

**Introduction:**

"What do you get when you cross a donkey who has poor grammar with a yam who is adamant about proper speech? Why a silly picture book that will leave you in a fit of giggles, of course!" By [HMHyoungreaders](http://hmhyoungreaders.com) on April 15, 2015 in [Kids](#), [Picture Books](#)

This story can be introduced and done as a reader's theater using these props from Mimi's Motifs: [http://www.mimismotifs.com/donkey\\_and\\_yam.htm](http://www.mimismotifs.com/donkey_and_yam.htm)

## **Story time Activities:**

### **Mr. Sweet Potato Head:**

<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/54708222/>

5 lesson plans about sweet potatoes, which include activities to help students develop vocabulary and learning skills:

<http://www.ncsweetpotatoes.com/sweet-potatoes-101/sweet-potatoes-in-the-classroom/materials-to-download/>

### **What Is The Difference Between A Sweet Potato And A Yam?**

<http://www.ncsweetpotatoes.com/sweet-potatoes-101/difference-between-yam-and-sweet-potato/>

### **Sweet Potato Scramble:**

[http://www.panen.org/sites/default/files/sweetpotato\\_activity\\_alley\\_022307.pdf](http://www.panen.org/sites/default/files/sweetpotato_activity_alley_022307.pdf)

### **Sweet Potato Play Dough:**

<http://therapyfunzone.net/blog/sweet-potato-play-dough/>

### **Donkey Craft activities:**

There are several great donkey crafts at these websites:

<http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/HorseCrafts.html>

<http://learncreatelove.com/printable-donkey-craft/>

<http://www.craftymorning.com/paper-plate-eeyore-donkey-craft-for-kids/>

<http://www.dandelionsonthewall.com/2012/11/homeschool-letter-d-crafts-preschool.html>

<http://www.mylittlebookcase.com.au/activities/activity-make-a-puppet-to-use-with-the-wonkey-donkey/>

<http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/donkeys-craftsideasactivitieskids.html>

### **Other books and activities about donkeys:**

<http://www.first-school.ws/activities/books/animals/farm/donkey.htm>

### Discussion Questions:

1. What makes the beginning of this book different from most other picture books?

Answer: The story begins on the title page.

2. What does the donkey keep telling the yam?

Answer: "You is a funny-looking donkey".

3. Why is the donkey confused?

Answer: He does not correctly hear what the yam is telling him.

4. Why does the donkey keep asking the yam to hee-haw?

Answer: He wants the yam to prove he is a donkey by hee-hawing.

5. What does the yam use to finally convince the donkey that he is a vegetable?

Answer: The yam makes signs to show the donkey.