

An interview with Jane Goodall

Luke: Hi Jane, I'm Luke Elliot. I'm from Greenwich. Are you from England too?

Jane: Luke, hi, nice to meet you. Yes, I'm from England too. I was born in London and went to school in Bournemouth, a town on the south coast of England. But later I lived in Africa for many years, in Tanzania. Do you know Tanzania? It's in East Africa!

Luke: Oh... no, I have never been to Africa. But I really want to go there and see wild animals! I've got a dog and I really love him. His name is Sherlock. Do you like animals too, Jane?

Jane: I love animals, Luke! And I love nature in general. When I was a child, I spent a lot of time with Rusty, our neighbour's dog. I had a lot of pets: a cat called Pickles, a hamster whose name was Hamlette, two guinea pigs, Gandhi and Jimmi, and a canary¹, Peter. I was a very happy little girl with all my pets. Later, in Africa, I was very interested in chimpanzees and their behaviour². I became a real expert on chimpanzees.

Luke: Cool! I have only seen chimpanzees in the zoo until now. Is it fascinating to watch them in the rain forest³ in Africa?



The young Jane with a chimpanzee

¹ canary [kə'neəri] – *Kanarienvogel*; ² behaviour [bi'heivjə] – *Verhalten*; ³ rain forest ['reɪn fɔːrɪst] – *Regenwald*

Jane: Absolutely! You know, chimpanzees live very much as we humans⁴ do. They stay together in family groups all their life and help each other. They also use tools to get their food and like kissing when they are in love. Their brain⁵ functions almost as a human brain does. In 1961, I saw a group of chimpanzees dancing a rain dance because they were so excited that there was rain.

Luke: A rain dance? Wow, what a surprise! Jane, you're more than 80 years old now. Why are you still working?

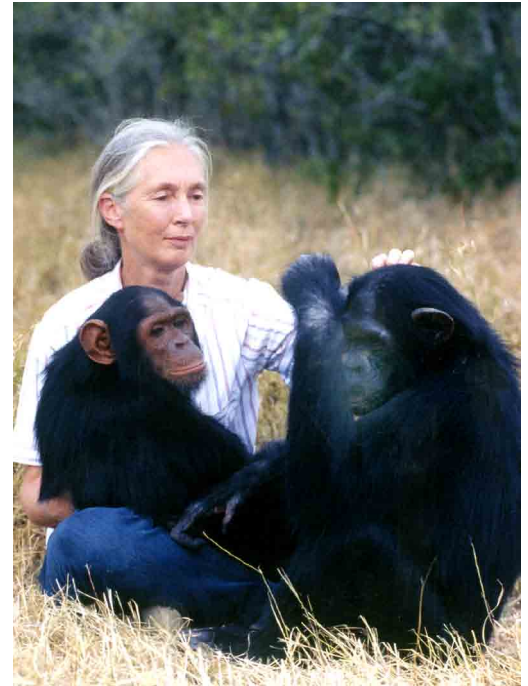
Jane: Every plant and every animal around us is a fantastic present nature has given us. But there's a problem: Today, many people don't know how careful you have to be with nature. So I tell them about my time in the rain forest in Tanzania. And I tell them that we can't live without⁶ nature. We have to respect nature! Children of your age often know that best, so I spend a lot of time with them.

Luke: But I'm only twelve years old. What can I do?

Jane: Twelve years is a great age, Luke! Young boys and girls like you have so many fantastic ideas!

My programme for children is called 'Roots and Shoots': Kids of your age form groups with their friends and work together to protect⁷ the nature on our planet. I and my team think that we all can help to change⁸ the world a little bit. In Colombia in South America, for example, a school class tried not to use any plastic bags. I've got a flyer here how to start a 'Roots and Shoots' project. Have a look at it, Luke, there's really a lot you and your friends can do!

Luke: Thanks a lot, Jane. And thank you very much for the interview! Have a safe trip home!



⁴ human ['hju:mən] – *Mensch, menschlich*; ⁵ brain [breɪn] – *Gehirn*; ⁶ without [wɪ'ðaʊt] – *ohne*; ⁷ to protect [prəʊ'tekt] – *(be-)schützen*; ⁸ to change [tʃeɪndʒ] – *verändern*