

'I will wait until they open the gate' was created and performed by Sara, Afaf, Abeer, Reema and Saja from Beach Elem Co-ed School (C), Gaza with support from their teacher, Luzan Matar. A recording of the play, performed by the actors is available here ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1SKvedktCE>



Scene: *A group of animals are waiting behind a wide closed gate. They are whispering with unintelligible words; each one has its own story. A monkey sees the animals who are waiting near the gate. He wonders why they are waiting and starts to ask each of them to find out the reason.*

Monkey: Good morning, sir. What happened to you? Why are you waiting here?

Elephant: Hello dear. Why are you asking? I've been waiting here for a long time. I am waiting for my freedom, but there is no response. No-one believes me that I want to live a peaceful life without fear. I want to go everywhere without any borders or limits.

Monkey: But who prevents you?

Elephant: This awful gate. You don't know what this gate means to us! Anyway, I will wait here till they open the gate.

Monkey: But who are they? What do you mean?

[The Elephant keeps silent and the monkey repeats the questions several times till the monkey hears a little baby rabbit and his mother. They are crying and his mother is trying to calm him down]

Monkey: Hello, Mrs. Rabbit. What happened to you and your baby?

Mrs. Rabbit: *[while she is crying]* Look at my baby. The baby is hungry and I have nothing to feed him. I don't know what to do for him. What did my little baby do to them? I will wait till they open the gate.

Monkey: Who are they? What do you mean?

[Mrs. Rabbit keeps silent with no response. The monkey sees a sad giraffe holding a book]

Monkey: Why are you sad, Mr. Giraffe? What happened to you? Why are you holding this book?

Mr. Giraffe: I want to learn.

Monkey: Really. Ha ha ha. What do you want to learn? Is it important for you?

Mr. Giraffe: Of course, who do you think you are? Why are you laughing? I have the right to learn like anyone in the world. It is important. Learning will pave the way for me for this wide world.

Monkey: *[still laughing]* But why can't you learn?

Mr. Giraffe: Can't you see this gate! It is our big problem, our big challenge. Shame on you! I will wait till they open the gate.

Monkey: *[repeats the same questions]* Who are they? What do you mean?
[The monkey stops laughing and looks around. He finds a weak and tired horse and speaks to him]

Monkey: What happened to you?

Horse: I am very tired and thirsty. I don't feel OK. It looks like I'm ill, but I don't have any medicine.

[The monkey tries to help the horse, but it is too late, the horse is very weak]

Monkey: Oh, poor horse, hold on please. Don't worry. I am going to ask for help for you.

The horse: *[in a low and weak voice]* We have waited here for a long time, but with no response. Maybe someone one day will come and open the gate so we can have freedom, food, water, knowledge, and medicine. We may have our right to live, to live as others live. I will wait here till they open the gate.

[All the animals stand together, walk towards the gate, and repeat]

All: We will wait till they open the gate.