

## Further Reading

### **Birds, Beasts, and Relatives**

**Gerald Durrell (1969)**

#### **BIOGRAPHY DURRELL**

Gerald Durrell's dazzling sequel to *My Family and Other Animals* is based on his boyhood on Corfu, from 1933 to 1939. Originally published in 1969, *Birds, Beasts and Relatives* is filled with charming observations, amusing anecdotes, boyhood memories, and childlike wonder.

### **Fauna and Family**

**Gerald Durrell (1978)**

#### **BIOGRAPHY DURRELL**

The third volume in the 'Corfu Trilogy' continues the accounts of the young Gerald Durrell during the years that he and his family lived in Corfu before the Second World War. While the animals of Corfu are young Gerald's focus, it is the antics of his family and their array of friends and acquaintances that are the centerpiece of the humorous account.

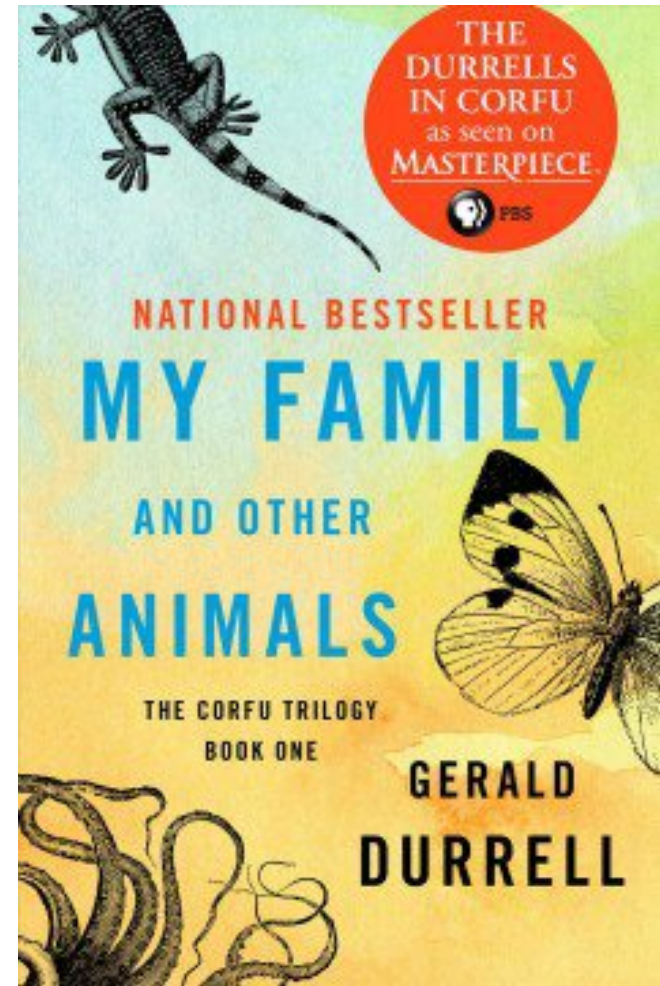
### **A Zoo in My Luggage**

**Gerald Durrell (1960)**

#### **BIOGRAPHY DURRELL**

*A Zoo in My Luggage* is an account of Durrell's third trip to the British Cameroons in West Africa, where he and his wife capture animals to start their own zoo. Returning to England with a few additions to their family—Cholmondeley the chimpanzee, and others—they have nowhere to put them as they haven't yet secured a place for their zoo.

## Book Discussion Guide



## About the Book

When the unconventional Durrell family can no longer endure the damp, gray English climate, they do what any sensible family would do: sell their house and relocate to the sunny Greek isle of Corfu. *My Family and Other Animals* was intended to embrace the natural history of the island but ended up as a delightful account of Durrell's family's experiences, from the many eccentric hangers-on to the ceaseless procession of puppies, toads, scorpions, geckos, ladybugs, glowworms, octopuses, bats, and butterflies into their home.

## Discussion Questions

1. Which character did you identify with the most?
2. Does the author criticize or admire the culture? Does he wish to preserve or change the way of life?
3. Regarding the culture, what did you find the most surprising, intriguing or difficult to understand?
4. What did you think of the writing?
5. What specific passages struck you as significant - or interesting, profound, amusing, illuminating, disturbing, sad? What was memorable?
6. Does the author succeed in capturing the essence of Corfu's varied animal and insect life? Discuss.
7. Mrs. Durrell and Larry argue more than any other family members. Why do you believe they share this type of relationship? Discuss.
8. Mrs. Durrell appears adamant first not to leave England, and then to remain at the strawberry-pink villa. What about Mrs. Durrell's personality suggests why she capitulates to Larry's demands?
9. When Gerald relays the story of the scorpions in the matchbox, he professes forgetfulness in leaving the box on the mantle to be picked up by an unwitting Larry. Do you think Gerald really did it on purpose? Discuss.
10. Compare and contrast Larry and Leslie. How do they appear similar? How do they differ?
11. Discuss the importance of the seasons. How does the author use the seasons in the novel? Why is this important?

*Courtesy of goodreads.com*