

Just-So Story Revisited

The world of worldly scientists agrees
That the giraffe's neck grew just to reach to the trees
But I'd like to argue another way around
That it lengthened to continue to reach to the ground.

With a giraffe's neck I am sure I would feed
On lofty foods whatever I'd need
At the very top if I could chew it
But that doesn't mean I evolved to do it.

The horse's neck is longish too
And what has it evolved to do?
The legs are clearly long for speed
And the neck's as long as just their need.

Deer and goats eat tree leaves too
But legs to run and climb will do
To reach up high they rear and bound
Their necks, of course, just reach the ground.

The other argument to check
Requires the front end serve the neck
It may be good for reach-and-steppin'
But also it's a splendid weapon.

Name any other beast you like
Can kill a lion with a single strike
But, strike or not, foremost and first
It had to reach to slake its thirst.

The giraffe's long neck, then, I suggest
Derives from evolving mighty forelegs and chest
It's not necessarily the other way 'round
The neck may be long just to reach the ground.

Reckon?

