

# Book Review—What do YOU think?

## Curriculum Connections

Alberta Education Program of Studies:  
English Language Arts (2000)

### Grade 1

#### 1.1 Discover and Explore

##### Express preferences

· express preferences for a variety of oral, print and other media texts

### Grade 2

#### 1.1 Discover and Explore

##### Express ideas and develop understanding.

· express or represent ideas and feelings resulting from activities or experiences with oral, print and other media texts

## Materials

- Books featuring animals (see our [Recommended Reading](#) for a good selection)
- pencil
- Art supplies (optional)

## Activity

This activity can be modified to suit students of different grades, levels and abilities.

### Activity Options

1. Select a book as a class and read it together OR
2. Have students find their own book featuring an animal. Help them to find a book that features an animal in a realistic light. See *A Realistic Portrayal of Animals in Literature* in the right-hand column.

## Book Review Discussion Questions:

1. Describe what the book is about in a couple of sentences? Who were the main characters?
2. Were animals shown in realistic way? How do you know? (see points below)
3. What was your favorite part of the book? Why?
4. How did the story make you feel? Did you feel different ways at different parts of the story?

## A Realistic Portrayal of Animals in Literature

- Does the story show dogs or cats who roam or travel without human supervision? *It is unrealistic to expect domestic animals to be able to survive on their own with the same degree of health as those raised as pets. In fact, domestic animals who are abandoned to the wild are a big problem in many parts of Alberta.*
- Does the book glorify the birth or puppies or kittens? *There is a severe pet overpopulation problem, therefore, spaying and neutering is an important part of responsible pet ownership.*
- Does the story portray animals with human characteristics? Books in which animals are presented anthropomorphically (ie: animals that talk, wear clothes, dance, serve tea) should be obvious that it is an imaginary story.
- Does it show wild animals as pets? *Stories about people who adopt and raise wild animals can present false expectations in young people. Situations in which people feed or interact with wild mammals present dangers to both people and animals.*

*A book not meeting all the above criteria may still be suitable for classroom use, as long as the points above are discussed with the students.*



\_\_\_\_\_’s Book Review

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

This book made me feel:



(circle the face that best shows your feelings)

What was your favorite part of this story?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of your favorite character:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_